

DON (AFP) — The wife of a Pakistani cricket player, Khan, gave birth to a boy on Sunday in Portland Hospital, on a spokesman's family said. Khan and Jemina's mother, bel Goldsmith, a billionaire finance politician, were present at the birth of the 3.15-kg baby. "It was a very pregnancy and respect. The doctor was delighted," a spokesman said.

re, Dalton Brosnan  
ember Broccoli

DON (AFP) — Pierce Brosnan and Sunday for a famous homage to "Chubby" Brosnan, U.S. producer who shot Ian Fleming's spy James Bond on the silver screen. Brosnan, 37, Bond played more than 30 other roles, including the "Chitty Chitty Bang." He died at 87 and was buried at the Odeon Cinema in Leicester Square. The actors have played, sexy agent 007 Sean Connery, who played it all, and George Lazenby, who played a role only once. "On Her Majesty's Service."

je says  
r hit her

DON (AP) — The relations, the Duchess said in a newspaper Sunday that her lover John Bryan and tore up her diary (of her daughter) to sit outside some on the stars and ended by all the "Ferguson was quoted in a London, the Independent, the interview was test in a round of political-barring, mostly television last week has brought Ferguson image in Britain now. "Bryan tore up the diary and threw it in the room," she said, describing a scene in 1995. "I would have looked at it. He had bruises all over his face because I told him to defend myself. I think any woman in the world likes to be hit and I'm not a saint. I'm a woman, who is heavily into sex, who is heavily into sex, and Prince Andrew, Queen's second son, seduced me. May after May of marriage. She shed a book telling the story.

rto  
elli weds

TOPOLI (AP) — Toni Albino, 67, appeared to the funeral giant, wed as Howe in a small room inside the chapel family's 10th-century villa near Palermo, 30 people, including Patriarch Giovanni D'Ercole, attended the wedding. The ceremony was held by a priest, and a security guard kept police and onlookers from approaching the ceremony. Ms. Howe, 31, is a former model and a friend of the late John F. Kennedy. She was in the city at the time of the assassination. She was in the city at the time of the assassination. She was in the city at the time of the assassination.

## London plays down OCME idea

LONDON (AFP) — The Foreign Office strove Tuesday to calm waves of criticism that met British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind's proposition to create a council of security and cooperation for the Middle East. London had "no intention to detract from the basic importance of the peace process," in launching the idea to set up a new institution along the lines of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the region, John Shepherd, head of the Foreign Office Middle East Department said. Mr. Rifkind proposed setting up a Middle East body to resolve regional conflicts on Nov. 4 during a visit to Abu Dhabi. He said there would be clear benefits in establishing "what we might call an Organisation for Cooperation in the Middle East (OCME)." He said such a body could provide a framework for dialogue, but would not detract from the work of other regional bodies, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council or the Arab League.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

## Haensch cancels Orient House visit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The president of the European parliament, Klaus Haensch, cancelled a planned visit Tuesday to Orient House, the unofficial Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Arab East Jerusalem. Palestinian officials said. Mr. Haensch, on a four-day tour of Israel and the Palestinian territories, had been due to meet Tuesday evening at the Orient House with Faisal Husseini, the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem. But following meetings with Israeli officials who are firmly opposed to any diplomatic visits to the Orient House, Mr. Haensch suggested sending a lower-ranking member of his delegation and then cancelled the encounter altogether at the last minute, a PLO spokesman said. Mr. Haensch was not immediately available for comment.

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His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday opens the last regular session of the 12th Parliament with the traditional speech from the Throne (photo by Yousef Allan)

## King opens final regular session of 12th Parliament

*Jordan will press ahead with its democratic march; economic course will improve people's lives  
Kingdom will continue to support Palestinian struggle; Israel should respect all agreements*

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday opened the fourth and last ordinary session of the 12th Parliament with the traditional speech from the Throne stressing the Kingdom's commitment to democracy but warned against those who violate the law and the Constitution in the name of democracy.

The King also said the economic reform process will continue through the introduction of new legislation that will stem economic growth and attract private sector investment.

In a 16-page speech that addressed domestic and foreign policies, King Hussein reiterated commitment to peace as a strategic choice and urged Israel to implement all the agreements it has signed with the Palestinian National Authority.

King Hussein emphasised that Jordan will continue to seek positive relations with all Arab states on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other.

"We will continue in our democratic process and in creating the environment necessary to make this process prosper further so that the benefits are felt by all," the King told lawmakers.

"At the same time," he said, "we will monitor the practices of those who do not yet comprehend democracy for what it is: the acceptance by the minority of the decisions of the majority, the respect of the majority for the opinions of the minority and their right to express them; that it is a means towards stability and one of the pillars of the Constitution, not a means to bypass

it or empty it of its substance."

The King criticised political parties which, he said, have organisational and financial links with outside forces but said they will not hinder the process of democratisation.

"The attempt by some who are misguided and blinded enough to adopt examples from those who are way behind us in achievement and development is truly pitiful. These are futile efforts in search of abstract roles or cheap external funding," the King told members of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament.

"We shall not be hindered by those who wallow in self pity and insist on belittling the status of their country," the King said.

Stressing that the government will continue to implement the policy statement upon which it won the confidence of the House, King Hussein criticised politicians who attack the government for achieving personal political goals and pledged to review the relationship between the executive and legislative branches of government.

"The separation between the three branches of the state is embodied in our Constitution away from personal whims and petty biases," said the King. "We are in the process of reviewing gradually and objectively the relationship between all three branches, particularly between the executive and legislative with an eye to developing and consolidating the relationship so that each branch is able to fully perform its national role and responsibility."

But the King did not say whether he will end the practice of including members of the House in the government. The current government includes 21 deputies along with Prime Minister Abdul Karim

Kabariti.

And in what was seen as a new vote of confidence in the government, the King said: "My sense of hope is renewed when I see my government working in earnest and in faith and transparency to restructure different sectors in order to achieve further justice, development and modernity."

"My government will continue to follow the letter of its policy statement until all the goals envisaged by us are achieved," said the King.

The King sent an optimistic message about the effectiveness of the economic reform policy in improving living standards and attaining

See page 7 for full text of the King's speech

tangible economic growth.

He said the new draft laws on companies, securities, customs, protection of national products and the management and investment of state funds will complement the economic reform package which was endorsed by the House last year. He said these laws will allow for a larger private sector involvement in the economy and will lead to stable economic growth as the government continues to pay special attention to needy groups in society.

"Jordan, which managed to make serious headway and progress in times of war and conflict... is still quite capable of achieving much more in this era of peace which will — God willing — uplift the entire region once the remaining issues on the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese tracks are resolved," said the King.

Reiterating the Kingdom's declared position on the peace

process, the King stressed that the only way out of the current stalemate is "to implement all the agreements between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel."

The King said Jordan will continue to support the Palestinians in their quest for realising their right to statehood on their national soil.

Highlighting the efforts of Jordan and the Hashemites in preserving the holy sites in Jerusalem and protecting the Arab and Muslim character of the city, the King said: "Our responsibilities towards the holy sites are held in trust, to be handed over by us to the Palestinian state once final status negotiations are concluded and once the Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, is established."

The King stressed that efforts for the attainment of comprehensive peace will continue because the "alternative to peace is death and destruction."

The Lower House convenes after a summer of political tension that reached its height in August when the government raised bread prices, leading to riots in the southern city of Karak. Despite the efforts the government has taken to ease the tension, especially after King Hussein's amnesty of certain groups of convicts and instruction to end legal procedures against those suspected of having been involved in the Karak riots, opposition deputies say the causes of tension between the two sides remain.

"I believe that the causes of tension are still there. I believe that the government has to go," Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Bassam Emoush told the Jordan Times after the opening of the session.

Opposition deputies, who had

(Continued on page 12)

## Srouf reelected speaker with 46 votes against 29 for Keilani

By Tareq Momani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Incumbent Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srouf was Tuesday reelected for a third term after securing 46 votes against 29 won by his sole rival Ibrahim Keilani from the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party in the first Parliament meeting after its formal opening by His Majesty King Hussein.

A total of 78 deputies attended the initial meeting of the Lower House, the fourth and last by the 12th Parliament before next year's elections.

Two ballots were found blank and one said "no one" while two House members, Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and Samir Habashneh were absent as they are on visits abroad.

Two of the parliamentary blocs which supported Mr. Srouf were elected as first and second deputy speakers. They were Abdul Baqi Jammo, who won 50 votes against 27 for his rival Talal Obeidat and Anwar Hadid, who received 46 votes against 31 votes won by his rival Khalil Haddadin.

The results of the voting were seen by observers as a blow to the opposition, which comprises 22 deputies who had nominated



Sa'd Hayel Srouf

Dr. Keilani, Mr. Obeidat and Mr. Haddadin.

The House also elected Salem Zawaideh and Samih Al Farah to serve as assistants to the speaker. Deputy Abdul Majid Al Aqash from the opposition received 31 votes in his bid to become assistant to the speaker.

A government source expressed satisfaction over the results saying "this is a manifestation of true democracy and we are happy at the results," said the source.

"Mr. Srouf's management of the House's meetings in the earlier sessions has proved successful and some of the most sensitive issues were discussed during his

mandate in a successful manner that prompted most of the deputies to reelect him for another term," said the source.

Mr. Srouf delivered a short address voicing appreciation of the deputies' support and confidence. He said the renewed confidence in him motivated him to double his efforts to serve Parliament and shoulder his national responsibility.

The House elected the following deputies to prepare a draft of the reply to the speech from the Throne: Taha Hababbeh, Bassam Emoush, Taher Al Masri, Ibrahim Keilani, Abdullah Ensour, Abdul Karim Dughmi, Fawzi Toumeih, Abdul Hadi Majali, Mohammad Al Haj, Mohammad Daoudieh, Hani Masalha and Mansour Ben Tarif.

Mr. Srouf adjourned the session saying that the House will in the next meeting elect members of the House's 14 committees but no date has been fixed for the next meeting.

Also on Tuesday the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) held a session under the chairmanship of its Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and elected three members — Taher Hikmat, Nassereddin Al Assad and Jawdat Shoul — to prepare the Senate's reply to the speech from the Throne.

## Israelis evacuating Hebron HQ despite talks deadlock

HEBRON (Agencies) — The Israeli army began removing furniture from headquarters in Hebron overnight even though negotiations with the Palestinians on the extension of self-rule to the city remained deadlocked, officials said Tuesday.

The Israeli army also arrested 12 suspected Palestinian militants in a crackdown in Hebron ahead of the expected handover of most of the explosive city to Palestinian self-rule, Palestinian sources said.

The sources said nine students were picked up during the night in a dormitory of the Hebron Polytechnic Institute. Another student from the institute and two other men were arrested in the city earlier in the day, they said.

Hebron is known as a stronghold of the militant Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), but there was no immediate confirmation that the 12 arrested men were members of the group.

Israeli security officials have said they feared Hamas or other opponents of peace agreements with Israel would try to disrupt an eventual Israeli troop withdrawal from the Hebron.

An army spokesman said meanwhile soldiers emptied offices in the military government building in Hebron as part of preparations for its redeployment from most Arab sectors of the city.

But at the same time the army has significantly boosted its presence in the 15 per cent of the city

where 420 zealous Jewish settlers live and will remain under Israeli guard after the handover, he said.

The army preparations for its withdrawal continued despite the lack of progress in negotiations with the Palestinian self-rule authority over the exact terms of the transfer of power in Hebron, the last West Bank city under full occupation.

Both sides said talks were continuing, but Israeli officials said they had regressed in recent days with the Palestinians backing down on some earlier positions.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat accused the Israelis on Monday of seeking fundamental changes to the Oslo accords signed by the previous Labour

(Continued on page 12)

## New status with U.S. will boost Jordan's Armed Forces — King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday sent a message to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai and the directors of the Public Security, General Intelligence and Civil Defence departments informing them of the recent U.S. decision to grant Jordan the status of a non-North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ally.

King Hussein said the decision will facilitate the acquisition by Jordan of the latest U.S. military technology and equipment.

King Hussein said the designation by U.S. President Bill Clinton of Jordan and its army as a major non-NATO ally is a gesture of appreciation for Jordan's

unique status at the regional and international levels.

The King noted that "the good reputation of the Jordanian Armed Forces, their sacrifices and the professional manner in which they have performed their peace-keeping duties in different parts of the world have contributed significantly to this achievement."

Under the new situation, the Jordanian Armed Forces will have priority consideration for receiving U.S. arms and military equipment and for acquiring the modern technology that Jordan has been denied in the past, the King said in his message.

The King said the new position places Jordan on equal footing with such

(Continued on page 12)

## U.S. vetoes Ghali reelection, wants Africa to nominate new candidate

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States Tuesday vetoed Boutros Ghali for reelection as secretary general by a 14-1 vote in the 15-member Security Council.

But U.N. spokesman Sylvana Foa said the 74-year-old Egyptian diplomat would remain a candidate, setting the stage for a protracted battle in which the United States has so far found itself diplomatically isolated.

U.N. rules allow candidates' names to be resubmitted in subsequent voting rounds regardless of whether they receive a veto from one of the permanent council members: the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia.

"This is just the opening round," Ms. Foa said. "He's in it until the Security Council makes a final decision" on a new secretary general.

"He is gratified and really appreciates the overwhelming support shown by the member states of the United Nations," she said.

Commenting on the U.S. veto, she added: "This is obviously not a democratic process."

While the U.S. veto does not technically force Mr. Ghali to withdraw his candidacy, it unofficially signals to candidates in the wings that they may step forward.

Aspirants to the prestigious post had refrained from waging open campaigns until the United States, which provides 25 per cent of the U.N. budget, took formal steps to oppose Mr. Ghali.

The outcome of the vote pitting the United States against big powers Britain, China, France, Russia and 10 other countries con-

firmed that Washington stood alone in its crusade to dislodge the U.N. chief.

African diplomats asserted that their governments supported Mr. Ghali for the post and had no intention of submitting new candidates.

"We are very pleased with the vote," said Egyptian Ambassador Nabil Al Araby, who presented Mr. Ghali's candidacy at the U.N. Security Council along with his counterparts from Botswana and Guinea-Bissau.

"It proves that the whole world was behind Africa and behind the candidate that Africa chose, which is the current secretary general," Mr. Araby said.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said the veto set off the race for Ghali's succession and invited African countries to submit names.



Pepper (hot)	280/200
Pepper (sweet)	200/130
Potato	350/200
Spinach	750/100
String Bean	550/350

## SEMINAR AND LECTURE



## Home News

## Labour union and workers at odds over planned strike

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) issued a statement Tuesday urging the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO) workers to refrain from a scheduled strike.

The labour federation described the strike as "illegal" and bound to cause serious damage to the workers' movement in general and the company workers in particular.

The workers maintain that their negotiations with the company's management for a raise in wages as well as better working conditions have ended in deadlock.

The federation statement said that the union, which represents the JEPCO workers, has been striving to secure benefits for the workers and has been in contact with company management to achieve that goal.

"While admitting that the dispute has intensified of late, the federation appeals to all JEPCO workers to call off the strike, respect regulations and enter into negotiations with management through an appointed mediator in conformity with the Jordanian Labour Law," the statement read.

"Federation regulations empower the federation board to take legal measures against such illegal action but

does not wish to resort to such measures unless deemed necessary in order to safeguard the national interest."

The statement followed a five-hour meeting held Monday under the chairmanship of Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh and attended by Union President Khalifeh Ma'aitah and Federation Secretary General Khaled Shreim.

Subsequent to the meeting, the minister announced that the workers' strike scheduled for Wednesday was unlawful and that the Ministry of Labour holds the workers union fully responsible should the strike be enforced.

The minister urged workers to abide by the law, affirming that the labour dispute has been referred to a mediator to defuse the situation and terminate the dispute.

Mr. Shreim confirmed that he sent a message to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti advising him that negotiations over the dispute are at an impasse and that the strike seemed inevitable.

"We tried to convene a meeting for the two parties," he said, "but company management refused and demanded that the meeting be held in the presence of a government-appointed mediator."

"In the meantime," he stated, "both the management and the workers are adhering tenaciously to their positions."

Mr. Shreim described the federation and the Ministry of Labour as continuing their contacts with the two parties to potentially contain the dispute and avert a strike.

But, he noted, Article 135 of the Labour Law stipulates that the federation has the right to suspend any strike until arbitration negotiations have been completed.

Mr. Shreim urged workers and company management to be "responsible" and avoid the strike in order to safeguard the public interest.

However, President of the Workers Union Khalifeh Ma'aitah remonstrated that negotiations have generated no positive results and that workers are resolved to proceed with their scheduled strike on Wednesday.

"We are determined to persevere with the purpose of securing our rights," said Mr. Ma'aitah who described the strike as legal and in accordance with Article 135 of the Labour Law.

## Former ambassador accused of embezzlement, freed on bail

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Former Jordanian Ambassador to Switzerland Akram Barakat, who is standing trial on charges of embezzlement and/or misappropriation of state funds, was Tuesday freed on bail of JD 50,000, legal sources said.

Mr. Barakat was detained in Jan. 1995 and refused bail until Monday when Amman Criminal Court Judge Isam Abu Ghencim approved a request filed by Defence Attorney Ayman Abu Sharakh.

The sources confirmed that bail was posted and all legal formalities completed on Tuesday and Mr. Barakat, who had been detained at Swaga prison, was released shortly thereafter.

The former diplomat was not immediately available for comment.

This type of case is one of

the rarest reported in Jordan involving a diplomat of ambassadorial rank.

The court started hearing the case on Sept. 20, months after Mr. Barakat was recalled from his post in Bern, Switzerland, following a joint Foreign Ministry/Audit Bureau inspection of the embassy's accounts. He was detained immediately upon his return home.

The Foreign Ministry/Audit Bureau inspection revealed major discrepancies. Funds of the embassy were missing or unaccounted for, and the mission also suffered direct losses as a result of the alleged actions, according to the prosecution.

The total amount, including the allegedly embezzled/misappropriated amount, as well as direct losses, is estimated at JD 343,116.

The amount includes, according to the charge

sheet, rent for the embassy premises, a loan taken by Mr. Barakat from the bank where the mission maintained its account and seized from the accounts of the mission by the same bank (when he failed to repay the amount) and proceeds from an unapproved sale of an embassy vehicle. Also included in the amount are damages claimed by those to whom the embassy was indebted and interest on payments that the ambassador failed to make.

According to the charge sheet, the discrepancies surfaced when the owner of the embassy premises in Bern wrote directly to the Foreign Ministry in Amman seeking payment of rent in late 1994.

The Foreign Ministry, which had already transferred the amount to Bern, launched an investigation along with the Audit Bureau and sent representatives to Switzerland to

inspect the books of the embassy's accounts.

The results of the investigation and testimonies from embassy staff led to the case against Mr. Barakat, who served as head of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington for 12 years before being assigned as ambassador to Switzerland in 1990.

Foreign Ministry and Audit Bureau officials are the main prosecution witnesses in the case. On Monday, the court heard the testimony of an Audit Bureau official.

It was not immediately known what line of defence the former diplomat intends to present in court.

If convicted Mr. Barakat could be sentenced up to 15 years in prison and a stiff fine equal to the amount that he accused of having embezzled and/or misappropriated.

## Environmentalists, decision-makers attempt to come to an accord on dam construction

## IN BRIEF

ed by UAE team

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

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AMMAN — Ending a long debate over the construction of three dams in the Jordan Valley, which threatened to open a painful gap between nature conservationists and decision-makers, Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Dureid Mahasneh declared that "the preservation of the environment is a precondition for the launching of the project."

The three-month debate saw the conservationists' worries about safeguarding Jordan's natural beauty opposed to decision makers' quest for further social and economic development.

When first announced, the project for the construction of the dams at Wadi Hassa (Tannour Dam), Wadi Waleh and Wadi Mujib was hailed by many as it was supposed to provide the Kingdom with an additional annual 55 million cubic metres of water.

However, at the same time, it met with strong criticism from the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), on the grounds that the construction of the dams would irretrievably damage the eco-system of Wadi Mujib, widely considered one of the most spectacular features along the Dead Sea shore.

In fact the RSCN last September issued a fact sheet strongly rejecting the plan.

Since then, the JVA and the RSCN "are working hand in hand to ensure that the project is environmentally sustainable," Dr. Mahasneh said, adding that he had held "more than one meeting" with RSCN president Anis Mousher in this regard.

He also said the JVA and the RSCN are currently working together on a study to assess the environmental impact of the three dams on the region.

Dr. Mahasneh added that the JVA is now seeking funds for the implementa-

tion of the project, which will be launched "only after the environmental study is concluded."

According to Dr. Mahasneh, water use plans for the proposed dams state that 40 per cent of the waters collected will be used for industry, mainly potash plants. Another 40 per cent, he said, is slated for the tourism development area of Sweimeh, on the Dead Sea shore, 10 per cent should be used for domestic consumption, and the remaining 10 per cent for irrigation purposes.

Stressing the social and economic benefits of the project, Dr. Mahasneh said that the dams are going to support industry and tourism projects in the region, by maintaining and creating job opportunities for local residents.

"Many people from Karak and the Safi area are already employed at the potash plant, and when new hotels will open on the Dead Sea shore, residents will also benefit from increased job opportunities."

Notwithstanding possible benefits from tourist development of the area, many environmentalists and conservationists argued that the construction of luxury hotels will not positively affect the local people's lives, as they have little chance to be hired in such tourist facilities.

"If the local population will not benefit from the tourism development of the area, the government, once again, should be blamed for not having supplied them with the proper vocational training in tourism."

In the fact sheet issued following the announcement of the plan for the construction of the three dams, the RSCN also argued that providing irrigation water to promote agriculture in dry areas was worthwhile.

Responding to charges that using vital fresh water to grow yet more water-dependent crops in dry

areas is futile, Dr. Mahasneh said that resources should not be employed to promote only one sector, at the expense of others.

"Development is an integrated process" and should involve all economic sectors, he said.

To those pointing out that the agriculture sector is highly water consuming and employs less than seven per cent of the country's labour force, contributing to only six per cent of the GNP, Dr. Mahasneh answered rejecting as "terrible and irresponsible" the possibility of "destroying the agriculture sector, with all the social costs that such a move would entail in some areas because it is not productive enough."

"If the land is not productive, it is not the farmers' fault, but the government should be blamed," he said, adding that dismantling rural communities for the benefit of the industrial sector would be pointless, as "industry needs a market."

## Organisation to repatriate displaced Bosnians

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO), which has been caring for displaced Bosnians since 1993, has prepared a plan for the repatriation of displaced families currently residing in the Kingdom. JHCO Secretary General and Minister of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi announced Tuesday.

"Originally the organisation hosted 38 Bosnian families, consisting of 131 individuals, in a facility in eastern Amman, providing them with medical treatment, water, electricity and heating as well as children's transportation to school," Dr. Abbadi said.

"The services were all free," he said, "and a monthly sum of JD 4,460 was portioned out in commensurate parts to the families in question."

Since its inception, the organisation has repatriated most of the families with 35 Bosnians still residing (in the Kingdom) awaiting plans for their repatriation, the minister said.

He confirmed that, during their stay in Amman, nine Bosnian students were granted scholarships to study in Jordanian universities.

Dr. Abbadi also announced that the organisation has acquired a 336-dunum plot of land within the Amman governorate to set up permanent headquarters and that the projected premises will include a specialised department for launching relief projects as well as residential quarters for students coming to Jordan in the wake of disasters in their native lands.

The confines will also include a centre for training personnel regarding the management of disaster victims, he explained, a public garden, a small vocational unit for handicrafts and various other related departments.

He said that a two-storey building lies on the plot of land and comprises 1,330 square metres which, he maintained, the organisation plans to enlarge at the estimated cost of JD70,000.

The organisation has been providing relief aid to the victims of wars, floods, and other natural disasters in Europe, Asia and Africa upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan since the organisation's inception in 1990.

Last July, the organisation dispatched two planes loaded with 25 tonnes of relief supplies for Bosnia worth \$220,000. Dr. Abbadi said, and since the outbreak of the war in Bosnia, Jordanians have provided the organisation with JD 1.7 million in currency and JD 1.3 million in the form of in-kind aid.

He said that the JHCO is currently embarking on a plan to use cash contributions in the implementation of reconstruction projects in Bosnia and for building schools and health centres.

Dr. Abbadi said that this year the organisation sent relief in the form of food and medical supplies to victims of Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon and similar shipments to flood victims in Yemen.

## What's Going On

## FILMS

"Till We Meet Again" (Pt. I) at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

## CONCERT

Performance of Austrian classical music at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

## PANEL DISCUSSION

Panel discussion with the participation of Dr. Taleb Rifai, director of the Investments Promotion Corporation, and Dr. Yusef Mansur, consultant at the Ministry of Planning, on the Cairo Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit at the American Centre auditorium at 5:00 p.m.

## ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Human rights issues are to be addressed at a round table discussion on Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Centre at 4 p.m. Open to the public, the participants will include ministers, parliamentarians and human rights activists. The event has been organised by the Arab League for Human Rights and the Al-Riadeh Centre for Information and Studies.

## SEMINAR AND LECTURE

"The Technology of Artificial Fertilization and Medical Ethics" with the participation of Dr. Zubair An Faris and Dr. Mu'in Faddah at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

Dialogue with Marwan Kassab-Bachi on his artistic work to be followed by a concert by Sakhr Hatat at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

## EXHIBITIONS

Works by Jalal Arikat and Larisa Najar at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Dec. 6.

Retrospective exhibition by Berlin-based Syrian artist Marwan Kassab-Bachi at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Dec. 10. Also displaying works of contemporary Arab artists.

Works by Syrian artist Mustafa Ali at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens St. until Nov. 30.

Aspects from the modern Jordanian plastic art by several Jordanian artists entitled "Message" at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 28.

Works by Monkith Sa'id and Bert Hermens entitled "Untitled Diary" at Balqa Art Gallery, Fuheis, until Nov. 21.

Photo panels and mosaics exhibition by German artist Yona Joest entitled "Petra — A Cosmological Dialogue" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Nov. 30.

Photography exhibition "Al Aqsa Uprisings" by Khalid Al Zaghawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 22.

Works by twenty four artists (from Iraq, Holland, Lebanon, Vietnam, Spain, Greece, Curacao, Indonesia, Russia, and Chile) entitled "Hond and Hamer" at Cultural Transmission at the Royal Society of Fine Art, Jabal Weibdeh until Nov. 30.

Photo exhibition by Basma Asfour entitled "Doubles Regards" at the French Cultural Centre, until Nov. 28.

## Lovers receive death penalty for spousal murder

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Criminal Court Tuesday passed death penalty verdicts in the case of two determined to be guilty of poisoning a 60-year old man in the village of Deir Ala'a near Salt in January of this year.

The court tribunal, comprised of Justices Abdul Rahman Tawfiq, Mifleh Mobeldin and Ismael Hmouz, found Raya Musa, 35 and Hassan Faleh 45, guilty of the premeditated murder of Ahmad Mohammed Mire'eh, on Jan. 3.

The victim was the husband of Ms. Musa.

Upon announcement of the verdict, Ms. Musa, a mother of nine, collapsed and then proceeded to lament, screaming that she was innocent and begging for mercy.

Mr. Faleh remained standing, watching her impassively.

According to court transcripts, the two suspects, who worked in the Deir Ala'a Health Centre, had been engaged in an extra-marital affair since the beginning of 1995.

Four months previous

to the murder, Mr. Faleh asked Ms. Musa to divorce her husband and marry him, the transcripts stated.

"But married, in the knowledge that her husband would not accede to a divorce, the two hatched a plot to murder Mr. Mire'eh," Judge Tawfiq said in the reading of the verdict.

Judge Tawfiq elucidated that the two divided their roles with Mr. Faleh procuring rat poison, while the Ms. Musa purchased sleeping pills.

The night of the murder, transcripts stated, jointly with the rat poison, Ms. Musa dissolved three sleeping pills in a cup of tea and served it to her husband.

According to the court, Ms. Musa, who was 25 years her husband's junior, had frequent quarrels with her spouse.

The two had been married for 22 years.

Criminal Court Prosecutor Ali Abu Hjeleh had requested the maximum penalty.

The legal counsel had pleaded on behalf of his clients, stating that Ms. Musa was the sole supporter of nine children and Mr. Faleh was the father of four.

Following the verdict's announcement, the defence attorney stated plans to appeal the verdict at the Court of Cassation.

Ms. Musa was the third woman and the 20th person sentenced to death this year.

On July 31, two women, a mother and her daughter, were sentenced to death in absentia, after they were found guilty of murdering a newborn in October of 1994.

Seven people have been executed since the beginning of the year.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Court Tuesday postponed, for the second time, procedures in the retrial of nine people, five of whom were sentenced to death in 1995.

An attorney, Jalal Abbassi, failed to appear in court for the second time, and Judge Tawfiq set Dec. 3 as the date to hear the case.

The nine, part of a group of 12, including two women, had previously received prison sentences ranging from 10 years to death for a total of 230 crimes, including murder, armed robbery, theft, kidnapping and fraud.

## Pakistani delegation arrives for economic talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A nine-member Pakistani trade delegation arrived Tuesday on a three-day visit during which they will hold talks with businessmen and representatives of the private sector.

These will cover means of enhancing commercial exchange and developing bilateral economic ties.

In a related development, a British-Middle Eastern Association trade delegation arrives tomorrow on a five-day visit for talks with businessmen on trade opportunities as well as the possibility of setting up joint industries in Jordan.

The delegation includes representatives of six British companies specialised in manufacturing gauging equipment, artificial flavours, and representatives of pharmaceutical, food, chemical, cosmetic and perfume industries.

The delegation is headed by Michael Thomas, member of the British-Middle Eastern Trade Committee, a governmental body entrusted with giving advice to the British Trade Department on bilateral cooperation between British and Middle Eastern companies.



## Firemen put out freight shuttle blaze in mid-Channel Tunnel

CALAIS, France (AFP) — Firemen from France and Britain put out a fire aboard a freight shuttle in the middle of the Channel Tunnel Tuesday after fighting the blaze throughout the night.

It was the first serious incident since the 1994 opening of the tunnel. Eight people were injured at 6:15 a.m. (0515 GMT), operating company Eurotunnel reported. Firemen had virtually extinguished the fire, which started aboard a truck. Two of the eight injured suffered severe smoke inhalation, and six trucks were destroyed. The other 26 passengers and crew were under observation.

Eurotunnel shares shed 3.5 per cent to 88 pence — about four per cent — when the London stock exchange opened, but recovered slightly by mid-morning.

Eurotunnel security director Clive Durrant said on BBC radio that a bi-national emergency plan had "worked exactly as we anticipated. The operation was led by the French although 100 fire officers from Kent have been involved in containing the incident."

A spokesman for the company said the passengers were evacuated into a service tunnel and safety in only four minutes. "We had

a full-scale international emergency exercise earlier this month and that undoubtedly helped."

Passengers booked on the first two Eurostar trains Tuesday between Paris and London and vice versa were being transported by plane or being transferred to Calais-Dover ferries, and put back on Eurostar at the tunnel terminals, French railway officials said.

A spokesman for Kent firemen said firefighters worked in difficult conditions to put out the blaze.

"It was very dark and very hot down there," he said. "All the lights were out and firefighters were basically having to feel their way along the tunnel and they could only stay down there for a maximum of 10 minutes before we had to bring them back because of the heat. Crews on both sides worked very well together."

Eurotunnel officials said the tunnel would remain closed to traffic Tuesday morning and probably reopen to partial traffic later in the day.

Meanwhile hospital sources in Lille said the two people most seriously affected by fumes from the blaze were in intensive care but their condition did not give rise to concern.

A joint statement from Eurotunnel and French local authorities said the blaze also damaged the rear locomotive of the train.

Firemen wearing breathing apparatus had been confronted by a wall of heat, and could only stay for a short time at the scene before being relieved by colleagues, the statement said.

The fire broke out around 10:00 p.m. Monday aboard the shuttle, which was carrying 29 trucks and their 31 occupants, together with three train crew, when it was 17 kilometres from the French coast on its way to England.

Rescue workers, including paramedics and firemen were at the scene within minutes and transferred most of the occupants of the stricken shuttle to a car shuttle heading for France.

The two worst-affected were later taken to hospital in Lille, and six others to Calais. Among these eight were the train crew, who were all French.

The remaining 26 people were sent for observation to hospital in Boulogne.

The sub-prefect of Calais, Jean-Pascal Gogez, said earlier that one of the lorries had been carrying an unspecified dangerous load,

but it was not the one to catch fire first. Firemen said one vehicle seemed to have been carrying polystyrene, which gives off toxic fumes.

Freight shuttles carry trucks on trains of open cars, with their drivers travelling in separate coaches during the 30-minute journey.

Unlike on passenger car shuttles, there is no fire-proof partition between wagons.

The incident occurred only 10 days after an annual security exercise to test the reaction capability of emergency services in conditions as near to real as possible.

The blaze broke out shortly after services resumed in the wake of a two-hour stoppage called by French unions to protest a plan to shed jobs, the first such action since the tunnel opened.

As well as the freight and car shuttles, the tunnel is used by the high-speed Eurostar passenger trains connecting London with Paris and Brussels.

Eurotunnel said the remaining problem was how to get the damaged train out of the tunnel. It would probably be split into two, with one half being towed on to England and the other half back to France.



Cuban President Fidel Castro (left) poses with Pope John Paul II prior to their talks at the Vatican Tuesday. This is their first meeting and could pave the way for a papal trip to Cuba (Reuters photo)

## Castro meets Pope at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul II and President Fidel Castro met for the first time Tuesday at an historic Vatican audience that could pave the way for a papal trip to Communist Cuba.

Mr. Castro, one of the world's few remaining Marxist leaders, was whisked into the Vatican under heavy security for the audience in the Pope's frescoed private study.

His motorcade of 16 cars, one with a light machine gun poking through its sunroof, swept into St Peter's Square with sirens wailing. Mr. Castro was hidden from view behind his car's darkened windows.

All media access for the meeting, the Pope's most significant since he received then Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in December 1989, was cancelled at an hour's notice.

The 76-year-old Pope's personal crusades encouraged the peoples of Eastern Europe, including in his native Poland, to shake off Communism in the revolutions that swept the region in 1989 and brought down the Berlin wall.

Deputy Vatican spokesman Father Ciro Benedettini said the audience began as scheduled at 11 a.m. (1000 GMT). It was expected to last about one hour.

Vatican sources said the Pope was expected to call on Mr. Castro to introduce

democratic political reforms and discuss human rights on the island, which is still about 42 per cent Catholic.

Mr. Castro, answering reporters' questions Sunday at the close of a U.N.-sponsored World Food Summit in Rome, suggested that the Pope could visit Cuba any time he wished.

For years a papal trip to the Caribbean island had seemed an impossibility. The Pope is due to go to Brazil next October when a stop could be added to Cuba, the only Spanish-speaking country the Roman Catholic leader has not visited in Latin America.

The last bulwark of Communism in the West is presenting himself to the pontiff of Rome and that means that the doors of Cuba are officially open to the Pope, probably next year," Italian state television RAI said in a commentary.

"Fidel Castro, atheistic and priest-eater, is forgetting the past and looking to the future by going via the Pope," it said.

Mr. Castro, who made clear at a news conference Saturday that he was not about to change political course, was almost certain to ask the Pope to speak out even more forcefully against the 34-year-old U.S. embargo on his island nation.

The Vatican sources said

the pontiff was expected to press the 70-year-old revolutionary to allow the church more educational and religious freedom and more access to the media.

Shortly after Mr. Castro took control in 1959, Cuba was declared a Socialist state. Some 350 Catholic schools were nationalised and more than 100 priests expelled. Freedom of worship and religious instruction are limited to church premises.

The restrictions on the Roman Catholic church now are similar to those in place in the Soviet Union and parts of Eastern Europe until the collapse of the iron curtain.

The local church, which the Pope rewarded for its hardships by naming the first Cuban cardinal in 1994, has often clashed with what it calls the government's atheistic philosophy.

Ironically, exactly 24 hours before his meeting with Mr. Castro, the Pope met for the fourth time with Mr. Gorbachev, whose "Perestroika" restructuring reforms began the domino effect that led to the end of Communism in Eastern Europe.

"Your holiness, I recall our first meeting here which led to the start of so many changes both inside and outside of the Soviet Union," Mr. Gorbachev said, according to a spokesman.

## Cambodian premier warns of military reaction following murder of relative

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — A gunman shot dead the brother-in-law of Cambodia second Prime Minister Hun Sen, a senior government official, outside a restaurant in central Phnom Penh Tuesday.

Colonel Kov Samuth, 39, deputy director of the Interior Ministry's economics branch, died of massive chest wounds shortly after arriving at Phnom Penh's Calmette Hospital, police said.

Mr. Hun Sen vowed a military response in a speech broadcast on national radio just hours after the killing of Kov Samuth, his wife's brother.

"It is time for me to prepare the forces to fight in the coming few hours or days if it is necessary to protect the people's lives," he said.

Col. Kov Samuth was gunned down outside a popular restaurant by an unidentified assailant who escaped on a motorcycle with the help of at least one accomplice.

Mr. Hun Sen said he believed the murder was an attempt to intimidate members of an alleged underground Khmer Rouge terrorist cell operating in Phnom Penh from defecting.

"I wish to inform my beloved people... that if the underground group faces risks (in defecting), I will have an immediate reaction because a military reaction to provide safety for our people is my duty."

On Saturday, 10 men claiming to be members of the cell held a press conference at Hun Sen's house in which they claimed that the unrecog-

nised opposition Khmer Nation Party (KNP) was a Khmer Rouge front and that members of the royalist Funcinpec Party had conspired to cover up the link.

They further alleged that the Khmer Rouge had planted agents in different political parties as well as in senior positions in the police and military.

KNP officials and Funcinpec president, First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, have angrily denied the men's allegations which were presented with no supporting evidence except for a six-page typed confession.

But in his speech, Mr. Hun Sen said he had direct proof of the allegations and warned "politicians and political parties" not to interfere with his work in convincing the rest of the underground group to defect.

He said three of the men had identity cards signed by Prince Ranariddh and rejected the prince's call for the 10 men to be brought in for intensive questioning by Funcinpec officials and the media saying: "The questions and answers will have to come later on."

"These guys have to be under control of Hun Sen, no one will be allowed to touch them," he said. "After the work is done, everything will be done according to the law."

Kov Samuth's murder comes as tensions between Hun Sen's former Communist Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and Funcinpec — the two main partners in the current coalition government — are near an all-time high

following the accusations. Prince Ranariddh, who left Cambodia Tuesday for a meeting of the world economic forum in Hong Kong before Mr. Hun Sen's speech, said Funcinpec would issue a condolence letter condemning the murder.

But he insisted that "if there is any tension, it does not come from the Funcinpec side."

"As you are very well aware, I could have reacted in a very violent manner to such an organized press conference and declaration at Hun Sen's house, but I did not," the prince told reporters.

He added that he thought such unsupported allegations were "bad for the country."

In his speech, Mr. Hun Sen said that after the allegations were made he had ordered all "military units who are faithful to peace and (who) support my action" to be on alert for threats against the defectors but had neglected to protect his brother-in-law.

"That was my mistake," he said.

But he appealed for Khmer Rouge moles hidden around the country to come out and defect, promising that even the men who killed his brother-in-law would receive amnesty.

Kov Samuth, is survived by his wife, Lim Sotha, and a 13-year-old daughter.

## Separatist elections threaten to inflame Caucasus further

MOSCOW (AFP) — Elections this month in breakaway regions of the Caucasus threaten to inflame tensions in a region already shaken by the war in Chechnya.

Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze has been powerless to prevent polls on Nov. 10 to elect a "president" of South Ossetia — which wants to quit Georgia and join with Russian North Ossetia — and legislative elections Saturday in Abkhazia.

Tbilisi effectively lost control of South Ossetia in 1991, and Mr. Shevardnadze's plea, that the poll broke an agreement reached last August for prior negotiations to be held with Russian mediators and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), was ignored.

The speaker of the South Ossetian parliament, Ludwig Chibirov, was declared first president of the breakaway region after gaining

60 per cent of the vote.

The outcome of elections for a new parliament for Abkhazia could depend on whether they strengthen the authority of the assembly's speaker, Vladislav Ardzinba, enabling him to reach some sort of compromise with Tbilisi.

Abkhazia broke away after defeating the Georgian army in a war that ended in 1993, but Mr. Ardzinba is under strong pressure from Russia and Western European countries to accept the status of autonomous republic within Georgia.

However elements in the parliament and the army are pushing for continued independence.

The riskiest poll in the region, however, is in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian-populated enclave in Azerbaijan which fought a six-year war against Baku's forces, conquered 8,000 square kilometres of territory and expelled the Azeri population to set up a buffer

zone.

Some 100,000 voters of the Nagorno-Karabakh vote for their first "president" Sunday, with victory likely to go to the current strongman in the territory, Robert Kocharyan.

Baku has called the polls "a serious diplomatic error," warning that they risk to hamper if not halt the difficult negotiations on the enclave status being carried out under the aegis of the OSCE since May 1994.

Russia, the United States and other countries have expressed their anxiety at the move when the negotiations are far from achieving any result.

But the authorities in Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, backed by Yerevan and the widespread Armenian diaspora, seem set on continuing the policy of boldness that has so far paid off, albeit at the cost of thousands killed in the war.

## N. Korea to close border liaison office

SEOUL (R) — North Korea said Tuesday it would temporarily close its liaison office at the border village of Panmunjom, the country's official Radio Pyongyang reported.

"We will temporarily stop operations and withdraw our representatives from our liaison office at Panmunjom from Nov. 20," Radio Pyongyang said in a broadcast monitored in Tokyo.

North Korea's official radio said there was no longer a need for the office as South Korean President Kim Young-Sam had said Seoul was cutting off all dialogue with Pyongyang.

It said Mr. Kim made the statement in an interview with the Washington Post on Nov. 9.

"The reason for the liaison office's existence itself has ceased to exist," the radio said.

The liaison office was set up in 1992 for government-to-government exchanges between north and South Korea at a rare moment of warmth in inter-Korean relations. In that year, a meeting of the two Korean premiers resulted in a non-aggression and reconciliation pact.

Aside from a Red Cross office, the liaison office is the only point of civilian contact between the rival Koreas.

There is a separate channel of communication through the military Armistice Commission, which oversees the truce that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

On Tuesday, a commission meeting was held in Panmunjom to discuss North Korean demands for the return of the bodies of 24 North Koreans among a crew of 26 that landed in the South on a submarine in September.

South Korea has said it will not return the bodies until North Korea apologises for the submarine incursion.

Representatives of the U.S.-led United Nations Command at the commission meeting told Northern military officers the matter should be resolved between North and South Korea, a U.N. Command statement said.

Diplomats said the closure of the liaison office would have little practical effect, and the North Korean move was mainly symbolic.

## Top Japan welfare bureaucrat resigns over new scandal

TOKYO (R) — A top bureaucrat resigned Tuesday amid media reports that he took cash and other gifts from a business executive in a new scandal at Japan's troubled health and welfare ministry.

A senior official of the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) said the party would take up the new scandal in parliament as a classic example of the corruption bred by Japan's "iron triangle" of bureaucrats, business and politics.

Health Minister Junichiro Koizumi told a news conference he accepted Vice Health Minister Nobuharu Okamitsu's resignation after media reports said he took unreported gifts from a man running a private welfare institution.

The affair incurred the wrath of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who has pledged bureaucratic reform as a pillar of his new government.

"I regret this very much because we are striving for administrative reform," Mr. Hashimoto told his cabinet. "This is a (result of) a loss of ethics among bureaucrats."

The daily Asahi Shimbun reported Monday that Okamitsu, the top bureaucrat in the powerful health and welfare ministry, received a golf club membership worth 13 million Yen

(\$116,000) and the use of a luxury car from Hiroshi Koyama, president of a firm which runs homes for the aged.

Okamitsu denied having received the golf membership, but club records showed he played using the membership in question. Okamitsu acknowledged he had been borrowing the car this year.

Golf memberships are highly prized and are considered to be assets in Japan.

In addition, the daily Yomiuri Shimbun and Kyodo news agency reported that Okamitsu took 60 million Yen (\$535,000) in unreported donations from Koyama. In a statement he delivered to the ministry, Okamitsu denied taking the cash.

Since 1990, Koyama's old people's homes have been granted a total of 360 million Yen (\$3.21 million) in government subsidies for erecting specialised welfare institutions.

Koyama was reported to have boasted repeatedly about his ties to health ministry bureaucrats, who have power over who is granted subsidies. Police have arrested Koyama on bribery charges unrelated to Okamitsu.

Domestic media said police had also arrested a former health ministry official on suspicion of taking

bribes from Koyama. The former official ran unsuccessfully as a candidate of Mr. Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in last month's general election, the reports said.

"This should be treated not as a case of a single official taking gifts, but as an example of the over-regulated society which is the seedbed of this kind of corruption and indeed is a major obstacle to enlivening our economy," the senior Shinshinto official told reporters.

"We intend to take this up in parliament as an example of what is wrong with Japanese society and of what needs to be changed," the opposition party official said.

The latest affair follows other scandals at the ministry, which holds jurisdiction over the lucrative medical and pharmaceutical industries, as well as welfare institutions.

Last month, a senior ministry official was arrested for criminal negligence over his alleged role in the spread of the HIV virus among haemophiliacs through untreated blood products.

Some 1,800 Japanese haemophiliacs contracted HIV, which causes AIDS, through ministry-sanctioned usage of the products.

## U.K. MPs reject full handgun ban after Dunblane

LONDON (R) — Britain's parliament voted Monday to reject a complete ban on the private ownership of handguns despite pleas from parents of children killed in March's Dunblane massacre.

It backed a government proposal to restrict the weapons, which some legislators warned could leave a loophole in the law which would allow another crazed gunman to commit mass murder.

The main opposition parties backed an amendment to a gun control bill going through parliament which would have made handgun ownership illegal except for certain professionals.

But with the conservative government instructing its members to oppose the amendment, it was defeated by 306 votes to 281.

Proposing the amendment, rebel Conservative MP Robert Hughes praised the Dunblane parents looking on from the public gallery for a doctory campaign for a ban which has resulted in a petition signed by 750,000 people.

"They don't think that their relatives can be brought back. But what they recognise is that if we leave handguns in the hands of private citizens, as regrettably the government proposals would do, we run the risk that once again we would have a tragedy caused by legally-held weapons," Mr. Hughes said.

Sixteen young children and their primary school teacher died in a school gym in Dunblane when crazed loner Thomas Hamilton walked in and started blasting away with handguns for which police had granted him a licence.

Under the government proposals, designed to protect the sport of target shooting, handguns of .22 calibre would be permitted provided they were kept under stringent security conditions in registered gun clubs.

"If it is possible to provide the public with the protection they need and deserve while allowing some limited legitimate sporting activities to continue, it is the government's duty to take that course," Interior Minister Michael Howard said.

At least four Conservative members defied party managers to back a total ban. With the Conservatives having a majority of only one in parliament, this could have led to a defeat.

But the opposition Labour Party proved unable to get solid backing from non-conservative MPs.

Banning a total ban, Conservative former Interior Minister David Mellor predicted that if the government proposals went through, people would "trade down" into .22 weapons.

"And .22s are capable of just as much damage as Thomas Hamilton did with a more powerful pistol," he said.

In an emotional speech, George Robertson, the opposition Labour Party's Scottish affairs spokesman, who lives in Dunblane, pleaded with MPs to act to prevent another tragedy.

"If we were tonight to leave a loophole in the firearms law big enough for another mass murderer... to walk through, then we would never be forgiven or deserve to be forgiven," he said.

Earlier in the day, people from Dunblane, flown to London by a Scottish newspaper, lobbied MPs to support the complete ban.

A few Conservatives said the government proposals went too far to restrict the right to practise a legitimate sport.



# U.K. MP reject full handgun ban after Dunblane

LONDON (R) — The  
parliament voted to  
reject a complete  
ban on private  
handguns despite  
the deaths of 16  
children in March's  
massacre.

The main opposition  
party, Labour, has  
proposed a ban on  
handguns in the  
house of commons.  
The proposal would  
allow a limited  
number of handguns  
to be kept for  
sporting purposes.

But with the  
government's  
members to oppose  
the amendment, it  
was defeated by  
306 votes to 255.

Proposing the  
ban, Labour MP  
Robert Hughes  
said the Dunblane  
tragedy was a  
wake-up call for  
the government.

He said the  
government's  
proposal was a  
"step in the right  
direction" but  
it was not enough.

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## Australian gunman mercilessly hunted down victims

HOBART, Australia (R) —  
Australian mass murderer  
Martin Bryant showed no  
mercy as he hunted down  
some of his 35 victims at  
Port Arthur in April, exe-  
cuting a six-year-old girl as  
she hid behind a tree, a  
court heard Tuesday.

Prosecutors outlined  
chilling details of the mas-  
sacre to the Tasmanian  
Supreme Court as part of a  
sentencing hearing for Mr.  
Bryant, who made a sur-  
prise decision two weeks  
ago to confess to the mur-  
ders and reverse his earlier  
pleas of innocence.

Prosecutor Damian Bugg  
told the court he had diffi-  
culty describing in unemo-  
tional terms the carnage  
unleashed by Mr. Bryant at  
a popular tourist spot in  
this southern island state.

"There's no doubt at his  
...desire to cause maximum  
damage," Mr. Bugg said,  
adding, "Mr. Bryant had yet  
to give any reason for the  
horrific crimes he com-  
mitted on April 28. Mr.  
Bugg asked the judge to  
hand down a life sentence  
with no parole."

Relatives of some of the  
dead and massacre sur-  
vivors wept in the window-  
less courtroom's small  
public gallery as Mr. Bugg  
recounted the full details of  
the murders, and the brave-  
ry of a few people who  
suffered serious injury to  
rescue others.

Mr. Bryant meanwhile  
looked relaxed in the dock,  
as he did in his previous  
two court appearances,  
smiling and smirking dur-  
ing proceedings and turn-  
ing to meet the stares of  
distracted people close by  
in the public gallery, sepa-  
rated by a sheet of glass.

Walter Mikac, who lost  
his wife and two young  
daughters in the massacre,  
was in tears as Mr. Bugg  
told of how Nanette Mikac  
pleaded with the gunman:  
"Please don't hurt my  
babies."

Mr. Bryant demanded  
three times that Nanette  
Mikac get on her knees  
before shooting her in the  
head and firing twice on  
three-year-old Madeline,  
who had been in her moth-  
er's arms. Mr. Bryant then  
turned on Alanah Mikac,  
6, as she hid behind a tree.

"He then moved to the  
tree and shot her at near  
contact point," Mr. Bugg  
said. "The gun was pushed  
into the child's neck and  
fired."

Mr. Bugg also told of  
how one man visiting Port  
Arthur, a former penal  
colony and popular tourist  
attraction, found his wife  
dying in the historic site's  
car park. She had been shot  
in the buttocks then finish-  
ed off by Bryant with a  
shot to her back.

Crouched over his wife,  
Neville Quinn turned to find  
Mr. Bryant shooting at  
him. Quinn fled onto an  
empty tourist bus and  
Bryant followed, finding  
him hiding behind a seat.

"No one gets away from  
me," Mr. Bryant said  
before firing.

Quinn flinched and the  
bullet struck his neck but  
he survived, Bugg said.

Mr. Bryant's "trail of  
destruction" had begun at a  
guesthouse near Port  
Arthur around midday,  
when he shot dead his two  
owners. Then at a crowded  
cafe inside the historic site  
20 people died within two  
minutes, the court heard.

"It's more appropriate to  
term what he did in that  
cafe as slaughter," Mr.  
Bugg said, quoting survi-  
vors as saying Bryant  
walked from table to table  
shooting people in the  
head, laughing.

"Bryant was not saying  
anything, but he appeared  
to be laughing in an ag-  
gressive way, rather than in  
an amused way," said Mr.  
Bugg, quoting an unnamed  
survivor.

One of the first to be  
killed, Malaysian tourist  
Moh Yee William Ng, was  
still holding a dinner knife  
in his hand when police  
later arrived at the scene.



U.S. President Bill Clinton walks with Australian Governor General Sir William Deane (right) at Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport Tuesday, with first lady Hillary Clinton (left) behind. Mr. Clinton and his wife are on a four day visit to Australia, mixing official talks on trade and security with a round of golf and a visit to the Great Barrier Reef (Reuters photo)

## Clinton arrives in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — U.S. Presi-  
dent Bill Clinton arrived  
in Australia Tuesday at the  
start of his first overseas  
trip since his re-election.

Accompanied by his wife  
Hillary, Mr. Clinton flew  
into Sydney on Air Force  
One to a 21-gun salute and  
a red carpet welcome from  
Prime Minister John How-  
ard.

On a breezy spring eve-  
ning, the Clintons were also  
greeted by Governor-Gen-  
eral William Deane, the  
representative in Australia  
of head-of-state Queen  
Elizabeth.

Mr. Clinton walked across  
the airport tarmac to say  
hello to about 150 members  
of the public, who were easi-  
ly outnumbered security  
officials, journalists and  
members of Mr. Clinton's  
travelling entourage.

Mr. Clinton will stay in  
Australia until Saturday and  
visit Sydney, Canberra and  
the Great Barrier Reef,  
before attending the Asia-  
Pacific Economic Coopera-  
tion (APEC) summit in the  
Philippines.

But the state visit will see  
golf and watersports taking  
up more time than politics  
and diplomacy, despite  
Australian concerns over  
U.S. trade policy.

Mr. Howard said Tuesday  
he would raise serious trade  
issues with Mr. Clinton in a  
one-hour meeting Wednes-  
day in the national capital  
Canberra.

Mr. Howard said it was  
unfair that primary indus-  
tries in the United States,  
Japan and Europe were sub-  
sidised by governments.

"I will be of course talk-  
ing to the president about  
the continued discrimina-  
tion against agriculture  
exports in world trading  
arrangements," Mr. Howard  
said. Australia, like the  
United States, is a major  
agricultural exporter.

In 1992, thousands of  
Australian wheat farmers  
staged noisy demonstra-  
tions against visiting former  
U.S. President George Bush  
to protest against a U.S.  
trade programme — the  
export enhancement pro-  
gram — which subsidises  
U.S. grain sales.

"The inefficient producers  
of primary produce get help  
from their governments,  
such as the Europeans and  
on occasions the Americans  
and Japanese ... and that  
subsidised produce is then  
reality dumped into our mar-  
kets (and) we lose them,"  
Mr. Howard said.

"If we were to turn around  
and do the same thing with  
some of our manufacturing  
exports we would be in  
trouble under world trade  
rules and that is the unfair  
and unbalanced world trad-  
ing scene," Mr. Howard  
said.

And that kind of thing I  
will certainly talk about  
(with Mr. Clinton)," he  
said.

Australia's trading relation-  
ship with the United States  
is nearly four to one in favour  
of the United States.

Australian merchandise  
exports to the United States  
were valued at A\$4.6 bil-  
lion (\$3.6 billion) in 1995,  
while U.S. exports to Aus-  
tralia stood at A\$16.7 bil-  
lion.

Mr. Clinton is the third  
American president to visit  
Australia after Lyndon  
Johnson and George Bush.

After meeting Mr. How-  
ard, Mr. Clinton will ad-  
dress a joint sitting of both  
houses of the parliament,  
where he will reaffirm the  
long-standing alliance be-  
tween the United States and  
Australia.

Mr. Clinton is also expect-  
ed to thank Australia for its  
help in achieving the com-  
prehensive nuclear test ban  
treaty earlier this year and  
its cooperation on world  
trade organisation issues.

But for Mr. Clinton, trade  
talk is likely to be left to  
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For Mr. Clinton, the  
prospect of a round of golf  
with the world's number  
one Greg Norman is a  
major attraction on the visit.

The president's itinerary  
has him free Thursday af-  
ternoon, while Hillary  
speaks at the Sydney Opera  
House, and Norman is in  
town for the Australian  
Open Golf Tournament.

After a round of golf and a  
Sydney harbour cruise, the  
Clintons will go to Port  
Douglas on the far northeast  
coast and two days of sun,  
snorkelling — and probably  
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## Canadian commander of Zaire force arrives in Rwanda

GISENYI, Rwanda (R) — Rwanda gave a low-level wel-  
come Tuesday to the Canadian general in charge of a multi-  
national task force for eastern Zaire whose mission grows  
less clear by the day.

Canadian army Lt. General Maurice Baril was met on  
arrival at Kigali Airport by a Rwandan Patriotic Army  
(RPA) officer.

No minister turned up, perhaps reflecting Rwanda's view  
that the U.N.-backed force is no longer needed because 40  
per cent of the Rwandan Hutu refugees in Zaire have  
returned voluntarily since Nov. 15.

But the U.N. special envoy on the Zaire crisis, Raymond  
Chretien, was on hand to meet his fellow-Canadian.

Gen. Baril and Mr. Chretien spoke for 20 minutes before  
heading for talks with Rwanda's vice-president, Major-  
General Paul Kagame, the head of the 55,000-strong and  
overwhelmingly Tutsi army.

The U.N. refugee agency estimates that about 500,000  
Hutu refugees have flocked home peacefully since Friday,  
deciding to quit the war zone in rebel-held eastern Zaire's  
Goma area.

Rwanda, which denies it is backing the rebels militarily  
despite much evidence to the contrary gathered by aid  
workers, diplomats and journalists, says the force is no  
longer needed.

It wants some of the money for the 10,000-strong force,  
which has not yet been deployed, to be sent instead to help  
resettle the Hutu refugees who fled in 1994.

Gen. Baril is due to attend talks in Stuttgart, Germany,  
Thursday, between countries who have earmarked contin-  
gents for the force.

Many of the countries, such as the United States, Britain  
and South Africa, were reluctant volunteers in the first  
place and have seized on the mass migration as a sign that  
the force should be radically sized down or even scrapped.

The Washington Post reported in Tuesday's edition that  
senior U.S. officials had tentatively concluded that the force  
is no longer needed.

Canadian Defence Minister Don Young seemed to be edg-  
ing towards the same view.

"If we get the results hoped for, and people can return to  
their home countries, and humanitarian organisations can do  
their work without being in danger, then the mission  
becomes unnecessary," Mr. Young said in Ottawa Monday.

"No one wants to go to Zaire or Rwanda for Christmas,"  
But other countries, led by France and Spain, as well as  
certain aid agencies say the force is still needed to protect  
and back up a major aid effort still needed in the southern  
part of eastern Zaire.

French President Jacques Chirac said in Tokyo Tuesday  
the force's mandate was valid, notably to secure air fields  
and food convoys.

A top European official gave the mooted force an openly  
political mandate Monday, saying it should also help  
Zaire's government against the rebels now controlling  
much of the east.

"The most basic of issues and the reason why I'm here  
today is to permit Zaire to recover total sovereignty over its  
territory as rapidly as possible," Aldo Ajello, a European  
Union envoy, told reporters in Zaire's capital Kinshasa  
Monday.

This objective is brand-new and is not in the Security  
Council resolution authorising the multinational force.

If 500,000 Rwandan Hutus have returned that would  
mean 600,000 are still in Zaire, scattered around a strip 300  
kilometres long. Some are known to have walked 200 kilo-  
metres westwards, into Zaire's inaccessible interior.

They were caught up in a month-long and three-cornered  
conflict between the Zairean rebels, refugee Hutu extrem-  
ists and the Zairean army.

The Hutus fled in 1994 after Tutsi-led rebels won a civil  
war and took power in Kigali. The political and military  
leaders of the defeated Hutu regime were mainly based in  
Zaire, arguing against any repatriation accept by force.

They and many ordinary refugees took part in the geno-  
cide in Rwanda between April and June 1994 in which up  
to one million minority Tutsis and pro-opposition Hutus  
were exterminated.

Rwanda says those with no blood on their hands have  
nothing to fear. But aid agencies say human rights workers  
must monitor the return of Hutus to villages where the  
houses and plantations of many of them have been occupied  
in their absence.

Some aid workers, who asked for anonymity, said the  
UNHCR was colluding with the Rwandan government in  
seeking to speed all the refugees, some exhausted and sick,  
to their villages.

The Rwandan government Monday started to clear  
refugee camps away from the border with Zaire, forcing  
350 sick people out of a camp run by the International  
Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies inside  
Ukumbura Camp, four kilometres from the border.

The flow of refugees out of Zaire into Rwanda slowed  
Monday but could pick up again if the rebels, who have  
close links with Kigali, open a corridor in the Bukavu  
region so tens of thousands of refugees further south can  
also go home.

Meanwhile, French President Jacques Chirac said  
Tuesday that Paris still believed multinational intervention  
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many of them to Rwanda.

Mr. Chirac told a news conference on the second day of a  
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## Rao ordered to surrender passport



## Jordan Times

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## In comeback, a challenge

TWO VERY important political landmarks emerged from the opening of the fourth and last ordinary session of the 12th Parliament yesterday. The first was the strength of the message that His Majesty King Hussein conveyed through his speech from the Throne, which in essence reaffirms this country's commitment to social justice, democracy and political pluralism. The second was the Lower House's elections for the speakership and its permanent office, which served as a litmus test for what might be expected in the next stage and our democratic parliamentary life.

While the reconvening of Parliament was in itself an unmistakable signal of the end of a political crisis that resulted from the riots in Karak and the south last August, the two landmarks that characterised the opening of the winter session spoke volumes about the comeback which the Kabarti government has staged since the lifting of the subsidies on bread and fodder prices and the unrest that followed.

The fact that His Majesty has fully backed his government over the decision to lift, or rechannel, the subsidies and gone all the way to release the political tension, (some would say stagnation) that ensued has no doubt been the key to the government's comeback. Credit, however, is in no small measure due to the prime minister and members of his team, who worked with energy and determination, under the most difficult conditions, to repair ties with the rest of the body politic and did not hesitate to go straight to the people to recover lost ground.

There was every sense of relief in what His Majesty told Parliament and the nation yesterday, starting from his expressed confidence in the government and his assurance that the government will now work more closely with the representatives of the people, even on details to draw up next year's budget. But there is also relief in the fact that reform will continue at both a stepped up pace and through a constructive dialogue in which the opposition will undoubtedly be heavily involved.

The parliamentary opposition can be proud of its performance in the speakership elections, although it has to realise that their outcome seals the government's comeback and reinforces its policy programme. The prime minister, on the other hand, fully realises the potential of the great opportunity to start anew and begin a fresh campaign for national construction, development and progress.

This is probably a new and refreshing experience in Jordan's political life. For political and economic frustrations, which would have been capable of bringing about a change in any government, to be channelled into positive determination and effort aimed at taking this country steps forward is an achievement that Jordanians can only be proud of.

But having said that, everybody will agree that the challenge ahead will be as great as, if not greater than, ever. Our people will watch closely as to whether it is being met, and how.

The choice to succeed is, as always, ours.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i Tuesday supported a decision by the chairman of the board of the Post Offices Savings Fund who recommended to the government to end the fund's operations which have ended in failure after 22 years of existence. Fahed Faneek said that it is regrettable to see the government, which has been advocating change and end of corruption, fail to respond favourably to the chairman's recommendations which were made to a special ministerial committee after a review of the fund's reports over the past years. The writer said that the savings fund incurred losses estimated at JD 2 million up to the end of 1995, and in view of the losses, one can only expect the government to end the fund's operations and turn whatever public savings it has at its disposal to the Housing Bank. In accordance with the chairman's recommendations, throughout its existence, the savings fund has failed to compete with the commercial banks and failed to attract substantial amounts of public savings for development schemes, which must have prompted the chairman to recommend its demise, he added. He said one cannot blame anyone for the savings fund idea, but it must be clear to all that the fund has failed because it was managed by governments, something which prompts one to demand that the Post Office Savings Fund come to an end to prevent further losses.

A WRITER for Al Dustour directed his attention to the Parliament's new session, demanding that deputies focus their attention and concentrate their efforts towards finalising draft laws which aim at boosting production. Mohammad Daoud called on the deputies to refrain from long and fruitless speeches and futile debates and get down to business and practical moves to help their country and people deal with the numerous issues plaguing their lives. The writer said the new session is expected to witness heated debates over a number of issues, but it is also expected to witness lengthy speeches which some deputies resort to as part of their coming election campaigns, to win the favour of the electorate. He said if speeches are long and futile, then the draft laws will not be endorsed and this will prompt the government to resort to issuing temporary laws, which, in turn, will be opposed by the deputies.

## Washington Watch

# In the U.S., a divided government does not preclude search for unified solutions

By Dr. James Zogby

THE 1996 elections have produced a divided government. Voters reelected Bill Clinton to a second term in the White House and gave Republicans control of the Congress for another two years.

In attempting to read the message sent by voters in this election, some leaders in both parties have determined that it is in the best interest of the president and the Congress to avoid the deadlock that would result from partisan wrangling and, instead, work on compromise solutions to the nation's problems.

The partisan political warfare that characterised the two years that followed the Republican landslide victory in the 1994 Congressional elections only served to enhance voter alienation and fear of government. Polls show that voter confidence in Congress is at an all time low and that voter turnout in this year's election was the lowest (49 per cent) since the election of 1924.

The self-proclaimed revolution led by Republican speaker of the House Newt Gingrich went too far and too fast. Public opinion deemed Gingrich too radical, especially after he forced a long-term shutdown of the federal government in 1995 in an effort to force the White House to accept Republican budget proposals.

While Republicans retain control of the Congress (having lost only about ten seats to the Democrats) and Gingrich remains Republican leader, there is unease even within his own party about his leadership. In fact, many Republican members of Congress sought to distance themselves from Gingrich in their reelection campaigns.

At the same time, the White House, while pleased with the president's reelection, is somewhat dismayed by his failure to win more than 50 per cent of the popular vote

and the overall low voter turnout. This lack of a clear mandate coupled with lingering unease over several unresolved scandals will make the administration careful not to overreach in its relationship with Congress.

It was this reading of the national mood that brought the Congressional leadership to the White House this week in an effort to seek some common ground in approaches to the 1997 budget. Both sides left the meeting pledging to cooperate. President Clinton noted: "We're in this boat together and we have to paddle it together."

Gingrich commented: "We'll seek to find every possible common ground to work with him for the betterment of America."

It is not only the message of the elections that have contributed to this sense of bi-partisanship. Continuing improvements in the economy will make budget compromises somewhat easier — revenues are expected to increase in 1997 and costs in some areas (like health care) have actually decreased.

Both Republican and Democratic leaders would like to put aside the stormy elections and the heady confrontations of 1995, at least for the time being. A better model, they say, were the past two months of the 1996 legislative calendar when bi-partisan compromises were found enabling Congress to pass and the White House to approve legislation on welfare reform, an increase in the minimum wage, and health care reform.

In agreeing to work towards a balanced budget (but not the balanced amendment to the constitution sought by Republicans), the president is hoping to continue this bi-partisan cooperation into the next year. Bi-partisan support will also be sought in the areas of campaign finance reform, Medicare reform, and

some tax relief, particularly for middle-income families. The administration believes that a balanced budget is possible with some tax credits for education, but they reject (and believe that the voters also rejected) the more dramatic 15 per cent tax cut proposed by Bob Dole, as that would then require very drastic cuts in social programmes in order to preserve a balanced budget.

For at least the next year this effort at bi-partisanship will continue. It will leave its mark in a number of areas, but it will be tested in several areas as well.

In the area of presidential appointments, for example, the president will be careful to recognise that his choices for top administration posts will have to be voted on by a Republican controlled Congress.

The president's choice or Erskine Bowles, a North Carolina businessman, to serve as his chief-of-staff is considered to be a sign of his efforts to build a moderate White House that will work with the new Congress. Bowles, who has a reputation as a political moderate and a tough administrator, will apparently have a strong hand in selecting the rest of the administration's staff.

Similarly, the president has indicated that in his search for the new cabinet members he is hoping to include some Republicans in order to build "a bi-partisan cabinet."

With at least seven cabinet vacancies to fill, the president does not want to provoke a prolonged fight in the Senate over nominees deemed too "controversial" by Republicans. The White House recalls only too well the repeated mistakes made in 1993 when nominees were withdrawn after embarrassing revelations.

With Republicans now in control, they cannot afford blunders in 1997. Bi-partisanship will also be sought in some areas of

foreign policy and this may result in tying the administration's hands in the short-run. The president has been willing in the past to take risks in controversial situations, evidenced by U.S. involvement in Haiti and in Bosnia. But his ability to win Congressional support will soon be tested over his desire to recommit U.S. forces to the NATO forces in Bosnia and the Canadian-led relief mission to Zaire. It is unlikely that the Republican-led Congress will be any more disposed to endorse new foreign aid programmes than the last Congress. Nor is this Congress likely to support any challenge to Israel, if one were to be made.

In general, in the area of foreign affairs, the president may test Congress, especially in those areas where their prerogatives to act unilaterally were traditionally maintained — committing troops and providing diplomatic leadership — but he will not boldly challenge Congress, particularly in areas where Congress will reign supreme — i.e., its control over the purse strings.

While efforts at bi-partisan cooperation will be made by leadership on both sides, several partisan pitfalls remain. There remains deep Republican anger at the outcome of the November election. Many still feel that the Democrats unfairly attacked the Republican stance on Medicare. And there is still more Republican anger directed personally at Bill Clinton for what they view as the "ethical failings" of his administration.

It is noteworthy that New York Republican Senator Al D'Amato, who led the bitter and long hearings in the Whitewater controversy, recently stated that in the spirit of bi-partisanship he would not resume his hearings in 1997. Some commentators noted that D'Amato's motives may

have been driven by the fact that his popularity in New York has dropped to an all time low and that since he does face reelection in 1998 he would not benefit from any further attacks on the president. But immediately following D'Amato's announcement, House Republicans challenged that D'Amato did not speak for them and they would hold hearings on their own in the House chamber.

Some Republicans are also threatening new hearings on Democratic National Committee (DNC) fundraising practices, and are calling for independent investigations in other areas where they have found what they term "unethical behaviour" in the White House.

And while Republican leader Gingrich has his own ethics problems the awaits reports on various campaign finance investigations by a House Ethics Committee and an independent prosecutor, he is being challenged by some fellow Republicans as well as Democrats who feel that his unpopularity and his "ethics cloud" have impaired his ability to provide leadership.

The going will be tough during the next year. The November election did not resolve many of the critical issues facing the country. It did chasten some leaders in both parties who now realise that an effort at bi-partisan cooperation may be necessary and even desirable.

But the wounds of the election have not healed, nor has the pull of partisan ideas lessened for many.

The test of Republican and Democratic leadership in the coming months will be found in their ability to prove to the nation that a divided government does not preclude the possibility of compromise in the search for unified solutions.

# 'Africa cannot be carved out into spheres of influence'

By Cameron Duodu

AMERICAN SECRETARIES of State have a habit of coming a cropper over Africa. A typical example of the genre took place in 1969, when Richard Nixon sent his then secretary of state, William Rogers, to Ghana for a visit arranged with an eye on coverage by the U.S. media. The tour provided a source of innocent merriment to Ghanaians, when during his speech at a gala reception, America's number one diplomat referred to the Ghanaian prime minister, the late Dr. Kofi Busia, as "Dr. Busio."

A few years later, the redoubtable Henry Kissinger, triumphant over his fears in the Far East, thought he would take a Tarzan-type swing across Africa and add a solution of the Rhodesian problem to the trophies marking his "world" accomplishments.

He, too, came new to the continent, and therefore knew little of the prickly temperament of its leaders. So having initially excluded Ghana from his list of countries, he thought he could hastily pencil it in, when one of those on his list dropped out. The U.S. ambassador in Ghana happened to be the famous former child movie star, Mrs. Shirley Temple Black. Under orders from Washington, she used her considerable charms to get the Ghanaian Foreign Ministry to invite Kissinger.

But the country's military ruler of the time, General Ignatius Acheampong, was

later apprised of the fact that Ghana, "The Mother of African Independence," had only got on to Kissinger's itinerary as a "second best." Acheampong bristled, and while the U.S. Secret Service was busy turning several suites of Accra's Continental Hotel into a miniature "war room" for Kissinger, Acheampong issued a terse press statement, giving what must go down in history as perhaps the most bizarre excuse ever given by one statesman for not being able to see another. Acheampong claimed he had developed "a boil on his bottom," and consequently had been ordered to his bed by his doctor.

I was reminded of these vignettes of America's relations with Africa by the five-nation tour that the present secretary of state, Warren Christopher, made to Africa a while ago. Christopher carried in his pockets two very controversial proposals. The first suggested the establishment, with American financial assistance, of an "African Intervention Force," to be sent to areas of civil strife. His second idea was to canvass African support for the U.S. campaign to prevent the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Boutros Ghali, from being elected to a second term.

On the face of it, the "African Intervention Force" idea is quite sound. If such a force had existed in 1944, and had been dispatched to Rwanda, it would doubtless have been able to save the lives of some of the hundreds of thousands of Tutsis brutal-

ly slaughtered by Hutus.

But why is the U.S. exhibiting this concern for the lives of Africans now, when in 1994, it failed to provide the U.N. — which had troops in Rwanda — with the backing that could have enabled it to save the lives of the Tutsis? And why isn't the U.S. providing adequate financial assistance to support the West African Economic (economic community) monitoring group force sent to save lives in Liberia?

In fact, the U.N. felt so weak in Rwanda that it actually withdrew the bulk of its troops from Rwanda, just as the terrible genocide was beginning. The blame for this must be shared equally by the U.N. secretariat and the permanent members of the Security Council. But the U.S. must take the greater portion of the blame, for as the only acknowledged "superpower" left from the cold war, it ought to contribute most to the U.N.'s peacekeeping efforts.

Yet the U.S. has deliberately refused to pay its contributions to the U.N. This creates the suspicion that the U.S. secretly resents the U.N.'s ever-increasing role, as the only "rival" to America's desired status as moderator-in-chief of the new global order.

From this perspective, the U.S. desire to remove Boutros Ghali from the U.N. also appears sinister. Has the secretary-general proved impervious to American "arm-twisting"? Surely Boutros Ghali is hardly the first secretary-general to

exhibit "personal failings". Why, only recently, the first-ever secretary-general of the U.N., the late Trygve Lie, was exposed by a Norwegian journalist as someone who passed secret information to the founders of Israel.

In any case, was it not insensitive for a U.S. secretary of state to go to Africa and urge Africans to ditch the first-ever African secretary-general? No wonder Mr. Christopher was rebuffed: on the African Intervention Force, he was told by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa: "If this initiative is to succeed, it must have credibility. It must not come from one country. It should be the initiative of the United Nations."

But it was a minister from France — a country that is America's ally — who poured the most withering sarcasm upon Mr. Christopher's African safari. French opposition might, of course, be connected with the fact that France maintains troops in several African countries and could see its influence wane if the American proposal for an African intervention force were adopted.

France's minister for cooperation, Jacques Godfrain, said: "Since Bill Clinton hasn't been to Africa once, since he didn't even mention Africa in his speech before the U.N. General Assembly, and since U.S. foreign development aid has diminished by 15 per cent, I am delighted to see the president showing interest in Africa and making it a priority at about

the time of the (U.S.) presidential elections."

Washington was outraged. The State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said Godfrain's comment was "a ludicrous charge" and "ought to be retracted." But Godfrain remained adamant.

The affair has developed into a row between Paris and Washington over whether any foreign country can claim Africa as its "private domain." To which Africans, who have lost so much through past foreign intervention, will surely retort: "A plague on both your houses!"

Warren Christopher himself has reacted to the French jibes with restraint. In a speech in South Africa he said: "The time has passed when Africa could be carved up into spheres of influence, or when outside powers could view whole groups of states as their private domain. Africa needs the support of its many friends, not the exclusive patronage of a few."

Perhaps these fine sentiments will spur Mr. Christopher to seek to strengthen the U.N., through which both France and the U.S. can contribute to the welfare of Africa without arousing suspicion. And surely it is impossible to imagine that the "client state", semi-independent status that France has bestowed on its former colonies in Africa, can last into the next century.

The Independent

## IT OCCURRED TO ME...

# Copy-cat's right

By Ali Kassay

Last Saturday, the talk show Prism treated viewers to an interview with comedy actors Nabil Sawalha and Hisham Yanis. This was due recognition to two gentlemen that have made an impact not only on the theatre movement in Jordan, but on Arab theatre as a whole.

This, however, is not the point which I would like to tackle today. In the course of the interview, the guests were asked how the absence of copyright laws in Jordan affected their work. The answer, though predictable, was most pertinent, and I permit myself to quote from it.

Encouraged by the success of their first plays, the theatre group produced them on video recordings. Personally, I remember this because a friend of mine who was studying Arabic at the time, asked me for examples of Jordanian culture, and I sent these recordings with a rare feeling of national pride.

Of course, I was not the only one to think highly of these videos. Immediately they were offered for sale, the market was awash with pirate recordings, which caused the venture to be a loss. Since Jordanian law recognises theft, even of a paltry sum of money, as a punishable crime, why does it permit the theft of an idea that would fetch its proprietor thousands of dinars?

Being a helpful sort of chap, I thought I would spare these worthy actors a lot of trouble by providing them with the stock answer I receive whenever I suggest that something (anything) could be run better:

"The fact of the matter, you see, is that copyright, as it is being forced upon us by the West, is an evil imperialist conspiracy to undermine the noble Arab enterprising spirit. True copyright was recognised by Arabs as far back as the jahiliyyah (age of ignorance, i.e. before Islam) when they wrote the seven (or was it nine? Authorities differ) most beautiful poems in letters of gold and hung them on the walls of the Ka'aba, which earned them the name Mu'allakat (the ones that are hung)."

Taking this paradigm from our noble Arab heritage, which is good for all time and space, and juxtaposing it into the present day context, it becomes evident that those pirates were paying Nabil and Hisham the highest tribute possible by making copies of their work and distributing them hither and yon, just as poets in the good days of yore competed in quoting the Mu'allakat. It shows to what extent they admired the work of these actors; so if they contrive to earn some money out of this show of homage, one should not begrudge them their just reward.

However, this argument does not answer satisfactorily the question of lost returns to the originator of the idea. In Jordan, it would seem, if one insists on being so materialistic over noble question such as culture, it may be necessary to draft a copyright law in verse and to recite it to the accompaniment of the rababa.

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Develop  
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The name of the speech  
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the Most Compassionate,  
the Most Merciful  
the prayers and peace  
upon the faithful  
the noble Arab Prophet  
the House and Com  
Honourable Senators,  
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led us to proceed  
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the civilised dialogue  
respect for pluralism;  
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give no monotheism  
of the One True  
God.  
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forces. Our armed  
will always reflect  
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inspired by the other  
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the highest appreciation  
of pride to us all.  
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survive in a region plagued  
by disturbances of vari  
ous kinds and forms. Avert  
these turbulent currents  
of national interest and  
the way for future



IT OCCURRED TO ME  
Copy-right

By Ali Kassar  
Last Saturday, the show Prisoners of War, with Nabil Sawalha, Hisham Yassin, and the due recognition of the gentlemen made an impact on the theatre in Jordan, but as a whole, this, however, is the point which is like to tackle the course of the view, the guest asked how the of copyright in Jordan affected work. The through predilection permit myself to from it.  
Encouraged by success of the plays, the theatre produced the recordings. Perseus, remember this, friend of mine, studying Arabic, time, asked me examples of the culture, and I, recordings with feeling of nature.  
Of course, I, the only one highly of these. Immediately the offered for sale. A ket was a pirate recording, caused the venue a loss. Since the law recognises even of a palm money, as a crime, why do we permit the theft of that would be prior to the dinars.  
Being a helpless chap, I thought spare these actors a lot of trouble, providing them a stock answer. I, whenever I suggest something, could be run by. "The fact of the matter, you see, is that right, as it is forced upon us. West, is an evil, is a conspiracy to undermine the noble enterprise of copyright. I, copy right was criticised by Arab back as the age of ignorance before Islam, who wrote the seven, most her poems in letters of and hung them on the walls of the which earned the name Mu'allakat, ones that are being. Taking from our noble heritage, which for all time and, and juxtaposing the present day, it becomes evident those pirates were Nabil and Hisham, the highest impact, by making copies of their work and using them in their just as poets in the days of yore, in Mu'allakat. I, what even these actors, to contrive to earn money out of the of homage, one not begrudge them just reward.  
However, this ment does not satisfactorily the of lost return, originator of the Jordan, it would one insists on the materialism, a noble question, was an achievement in itself aimed at preserving the national interest and paving the way for future

# Features

## 'Development is the goal that we work diligently in order to achieve, for the welfare and benefit of our people'

Following is the speech from the Throne that His Majesty King Hussein made at the opening of the fourth ordinary session of the 12th Parliament on Tuesday:

In the name of God The Most Compassionate, The Most Merciful

May His prayers and peace be upon the faithful Hashemite Arab Prophet and his House and Companions.

**Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,**

"It is part of the Mercy of God that thou dost deal gently with them. Wert thou severe or harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about thee; so pass over (their faults), and ask for (God's) forgiveness for them; and consult them in affairs (of moment). Then when thou hast taken a decision, put thy trust in God. For God loves those who put their trust (in Him)."

May God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you all.

In the name of the Almighty, and with His Blessings, I declare open this fourth session of the Twelfth Jordanian Parliament. I thank God that He has guided us towards consultation (Shura) as the basis for our deliberations, and helped us to proceed along the righteous path towards civilised dialogue and respect for pluralism; an intrinsic law of life that recognises no monotheism except for the One True Almighty God.

We in this beloved land are aware of the laws of nature, and that the keys to discovering the truth are through dialogue, Shura, exploration, invention, rationalisation, launching potentials, and creating climates that are conducive to nurturing responsible freedom of speech and opinion, under the constitution and the rule of law.

I am overwhelmed with contentment, knowing that much of what we had planned for and struggled to achieve together over many long years, in the true spirit of camaraderie that I have always cherished, has been attained by the grace of God.

And now, we see Jordan, a small country with modest resources, occupying a prominent place among nations, respected the world over, secure and stable, true to the legacies inherited from fathers and forefathers, and faithful to those same principles: a country blessed with God's protection, enriched by its people of different origins and extractions who enhance its capabilities; defended, with God's help, by its diligent and proud Hashemite Arab armed forces. Our armed forces will always reflect our hopes and aspirations, supported by the other faithful agencies that enjoy our trust and appreciation and that constitute, along with the armed forces, a source of pride to us all. The Arab Army is the impermeable shield that protects and defends our national soil, and thus will remain to be most worthy of our attention and support, and will always occupy a very special place in my heart as a shining example of efficiency and true professional soldiery.

Our numerous achievements for the benefit of successive generations, represent a living example of the mutual confidence between the leadership and the people, a special characteristic that has enabled our beloved homeland to avert disasters and turbulences in a region plagued with disturbances of various kinds and forms. Averting these turbulent currents was an achievement in itself aimed at preserving the national interest and paving the way for future

generations. Our other characteristic is exemplified in our natural preparedness to give, sacrifice and honour our responsibilities. This requires us to pause and reflect, and simplify matters in an attempt to adapt ourselves to the changing realities within our own society as well as in the world around us. For the great Jordanian people have always stood by, and for their larger Nation in times of crisis, paying dearly for their deep-rooted sense of belonging with the highest and most honourable form of sacrifice; that of the immortal blood of its sons. They do realise that sacrificing oneself is not an end in itself, but a means towards pursuing their noble objectives and interests.

Our people also realise, beyond any doubt, that the requirements for security, and the ramifications of the Arab-Israeli conflict in a region that has suffered the most from wars and conflicts, have depleted resources that could have turned Jordan into an oasis of wealth, free from poverty and unemployment. These factors compelled Jordan to open wide its arms, heart and soul to dear Arab immigrants, Muslims as well as Christians, who were uprooted from their homes and forcefully sent into the diaspora. This gracious country embraced them with love and honour, and thus immigrants and hosts integrated forming a unique and enviable unity.

**Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,**

Our great people paid the 'heavy price' of war and aggression with altruism and true selflessness, maintaining throughout a sublime sense of duty and responsibility.

Such was the era that we lived and can never forget. It is all behind us now; the pain and the suffering. But they are lessons to be learnt. And now, as we embark on a new era of peace and development, where we might also face difficulties and expectations, we do so while upholding the aforementioned characteristic of a mutual confidence built between a leadership dedicated to the welfare of this people and the preservation of their rights and national identity, and a people who have inherited the historical noble values and ideals, particularly those of sacrifice and giving.

We did not enter the new era from a position of economic strength, as we were still suffering from the effects of the major economic crisis of the late 1980s and the ensuing hardships inflicted upon our people. We proceeded to implement a programme of economic adjustment and reforms, to which people reacted positively as expected, anticipating what would be an imminent and inevitable relief. Our attempts to stand on our own feet again, and become self-reliant, were met with generous support extended by many friendly and brotherly countries, for whom we have nothing but eternal gratitude.

**Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,**

Our national economy has recorded vast achievements towards comprehensive development over several decades of growth, characterised by periodic ups and downs. Through the joint efforts of both the public and private sectors, we were able to arrive at this juncture where we depart from reliance on others to reliance on ourselves, and stimulate the productivity of the people of this country to achieve the required level of prosperity and sustainable development, which reflect posi-

tively on the standard of living of every citizen.

We have also managed to lay the foundations for a solid and open economy which can interact and integrate with Arab economies, and merge with the world economy on the basis of an equitable and balanced relationship.

My government has worked for the strengthening of our national economy and has continued to address the structural disorders in the balance of payments and the national budget. Consequently, financial and monetary stability have been consolidated; the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves grew, and the volume of local and foreign investments increased. Exports continued to grow, and export markets have been diversified, thereby indicating the increasing competitiveness of our national products in regional and international markets.

My government has also continued to consolidate the investment climate which would provide incentives to the private sector to pursue their innovative potential. It has concluded the preparation of a new package of economic laws which complement the package approved by your distinguished assembly last year. The new package contains draft laws for companies, securities, customs, protection of national products, and the management and investment of State property.

My government will also present to your distinguished assembly a new law to regulate competition and prevention of monopolies, another on the leasing of machinery and equipment, an amendment to the free zones law, and an amendment to the current law on managing public funds.

These laws aim to maximise the role of the private sector in production, within a framework of economic freedom, and a division of roles, responsibilities and jurisdiction in a manner that would ensure accountability, and guarantee fair and efficient supervision. These laws will also enable us to raise the level of national production to international standards and to protect it against unfair competition, be it domestic or foreign.

**Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,**

My government is taking confident and calculated steps towards implementing the various articles of its policy statement according to a fixed timetable, to be executed by the various departments and arms of the State. My government will continue to follow the letter of its policy statement until all the goals envisaged by us are achieved. The government will present before you the new budget and deliberate with you on its contents in a way that would reinforce reform, and spread the dividends of the development we all seek to attain.

My government continues to simplify government procedures and bureaucratic red tape for the average citizen and the investor alike. It has also institutionalised the process of privatisation in a manner that would safeguard the transparency and fairness of procedures, and guarantee the protection of public funds, and previous gains from development.

My government will continue to encourage the private sector's participation in national production through the expansion of its role in initiating infrastructural projects, particularly in the fields of telecommunications, energy, transport, water and tourism. While doing so, the government will be upgrading its supervisory role to ensure that infrastructural services are

accessible to all regions of the Kingdom; that the environment is protected, and that these services reach our citizens at a minimum cost.

As part of its efforts to consolidate economic relations with Arab countries, my government has revitalised integration and interaction with these countries in the various economic domains. It concluded agreements for the establishment of free trade zones with a number of Arab countries. It also opened the way for the Jordanian labour force to resume its traditional role in the development of other Arab countries, to the mutual benefit of their respective economies and our own.

My government has continued to pursue the objective of opening up to the world economy through negotiations to conclude a partnership agreement with the European Union and to join the World Trade Organisation, so that economic openness can be achieved gradually, ensuring our efficiency and competitiveness in the world economy.

My government has begun to expand the network of social security through an integrated social package to contain the effects of poverty, to tackle the problem of unemployment, and to narrow the gap separating the various strata of society. The aim of this package in the short run, is to raise the income and living standards of the less privileged to the acceptable minimum, in order to provide a dignified life to the members of our society.

My government has also begun to reassess the programmes of the National Aid Fund, the Development and Employment Fund, and the Alms (Zakat) Fund to extend coverage to the needy, and to provide the acceptable minimum to eligible families. The package also aims to eliminate the cause of poverty and unemployment in the medium term.

The government is in the process of drawing up detailed programmes to provide these groups with all their basic needs, including educational, health, and training services, in an attempt to eliminate poverty through increasing productivity, and contributing to development and sharing in reaping the benefits. These programmes also include upgrading infrastructural facilities in the less developed regions to guarantee a decent existence and participation in production. This package also comprises special programmes for training and funding to facilitate self-employment in small income-generating projects which would secure a better future for those in question.

In light of these substantial demands for investment, which are necessary to implement this package, my government has begun consultations with friendly countries as well as international and regional organisations to invite their participation in the required funding.

**Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,**

Jordan, which managed to make serious headway and progress in times of war and conflict, when it was spending substantial funds on defence and security, and having accommodated wave after wave of immigrants, and faced the horrors of the Gulf crisis, is still quite capable of achieving much more in this era of peace which will — God willing — uplift the entire region once the remaining issues on the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese tracks are resolved.

The only way to overcome the current stalemate in the peace process is to implement all the agree-

ments concluded between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel vis-à-vis the transitional phase, and to make sturdy progress towards serious negotiations on final status arrangements in order to achieve a just and durable peace. We will continue to support our brethren in the Palestinian National Authority in their quest to reach a final settlement which will secure their right to self-determination on their national soil, the exercise of full sovereignty on their land, and charting their own course for the future they desire.

**Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,**

The holy city of Jerusalem with its blessed Mosque and the holy sites of the followers of all Three Great Monotheistic Religions, has been at the centre of attention of Arabs and Muslims for many generations. God Almighty has honoured the Hashemites with assuming the distinguished responsibility for the progress and prosperity of the Nation. In this regard, Jerusalem was always a top priority. Undivided attention and care were paid to the holy city and its prime jewel: Al Aqsa Mosque, Sherif Hussein Bin Ali, the leader of the Great Arab Revolt, who rests in peace beside the Mosque, had forsaken all worldly possessions and prestige for the sake of Jerusalem and Palestine and the rights of its people.

Our founding grandfather, the late King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein, fell as a martyr on the soil of the holy Al Aqsa. The Hashemite Arab army offered countless martyrs in defence of Jerusalem and its blessed mosque; an affirmation of the profound attachment of the Hashemites to Jerusalem and its holy sites. When the holy city fell under occupation, Jordan was determined, with my own personal unwavering attention, to fulfil its duty towards this issue which was at the forefront of Arab and Muslim concerns. Jordan's special role in Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories was reflected in its upkeep of the holy sites and Islamic Waqf through the appointment of scholars, preachers, imams and guards, as well as the building of mosques, colleges and institutes. Furthermore, it helped revive Islamic heritage, restore and maintain Waqf property, preserve Islamic antiquities and manuscripts, and expose to the world at large the danger, of Israeli occupation policies to judaise the holy city. Jordan did its utmost to confront these dangers, and to protect the Arab and Islamic identity of the holy city.

These efforts were crowned with the completion of the Third Hashemite Restoration of the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques. I have had the honour, by the grace of God, to live up to my duties on behalf of the Hashemite House. We have made our intentions clear in a commitment before all Arabs and Muslims, that our responsibilities towards the holy sites are held in trust, to be handed over by us to the Palestinian state once final status negotiations are concluded, and once the Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, is established.

**Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,**

Faced with the unjust and distorting campaigns against our great religion, my government will actively participate in current efforts on the international level to portray the accurate and shining image of Islam, its outstanding role and achievements in building human civilisation and

enriching human life throughout the ages.

I would like to affirm here that any erroneous practices committed in the name of Islam will not tarnish its true nature and lofty principles, and that such practices are not particular to Islam alone but can occur in all religions and philosophies.

Excesses, deprivation, ignorance, and despair can often lead to negative reactions. It renders some people prey to the schemes of extremists, who invariably exploit them, in the name of religion, to commit acts that are unrelated to the teachings of the religion, but rather represent a distortion of tolerant Islam and a deep insult that provokes us each and every time to rise in defence of the very essence of our religion, faith and creed. It is imperative for all efforts to be united to provide a dignified life for the entire human race, so that the inalienable rights of human beings are not violated, their freedom and dignity are not encroached upon, and their lands are not occupied. This way we can all curb excesses, prevent deviation and keep them both under control.

**Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,**

I feel deeply gratified when I see Jordanians living in dignity and enjoying their full constitutional rights. My sense of hope is renewed when I see my government working in earnest, and in faith and transparency to restructure different sectors in order to achieve further justice, development and modernity.

Shura and democracy have taken deep root in our society and in different forms. We have transcended the phase when some would bet on the short life-span of democracy, or of wishful thinking by others that democracy would be void of substance. Political pluralism is taking its course and promises to provide more dividends, now that the law has granted it sufficient immunity enabling different political and intellectual schools of thought to express themselves through it. Such pluralism can frustrate the designs of those who do not wish it to be a means of ensuring clarity and transparency, and who continue to mobilise and incite. Some still believe that they are capable of charting parallel courses and of departing from the consensus of society in terms of the gains for us all, agreed upon for the common good.

As for the media and the press, we will continue to uphold the principles of responsible freedom, so that their outlets can be platforms of truth, available to all enlightened pens. They should be mediums for free, objective and responsible dialogue which enriches our democratic process in an atmosphere of awareness and honourable commitment to supreme national interests.

**Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,**

We will continue in our democratic process and in creating the environment necessary to make this process prosper further, so that the benefits are felt by all. At the same time, we will monitor the practices of those who do not yet comprehend democracy for what it is: the acceptance by the minority of the decisions of the majority; the respect of the majority for the opinions of the minority and their right to express them; that it is a means towards stability and one of the pillars of the constitution, not a means to bypass it or empty it of its substance. We see before us this august Jordanian parliament, which personifies the free and fair choice of the

Jordanian people, exercising its constitutional responsibilities successfully and effectively. The separation between the three branches of the state is embodied in our constitution away from personal whims and petty biases. We are in the process of reviewing gradually and objectively the relationship between all three branches, particularly that between the executive and legislative, with an eye to developing and consolidating this relationship so that each branch is able to fully perform its national role and responsibility. Our aim is to keep this relationship free from obstructive and negative influences, which, combined together, might harm our national objectives; something that prompted us in the first place to accept the principle of members of parliament assuming cabinet positions.

We, in this country, are proud to have completed a draft law on the Centre for the studies of Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights. The draft law has been presented to your distinguished assembly as a way of introducing another qualitative step in the process of building the institutions of the state of law. We shall continue to move ahead in our democratic process and to consolidate freedom of opinion and all other civil liberties. In our determination to achieve further progress, modernisation and prosperity, we shall not be hindered by those who wallow in self-pity and insist on belittling the status of their country. Or others who continue to ignore the country's achievements and are oblivious to the fact that Jordan has become the subject of much admiration for its political and economic accomplishments.

When we look beyond our borders, it is imperative for us to draw from the experiences and achievements of others, that which is needed to strengthen our democratic process and develop our technological capabilities. The attempt by some who are misguided and blinded enough to adopt examples from those who are way behind us in achievement and development is truly pitiful. These are futile efforts in search of abstract roles or cheap external funding. Clarity and transparency, in words and deeds, are two exemplary realities. The government and the loyal opposition form together the means towards great achievements and honest service. But to have executive office as an ultimate objective in itself, which usually prompts those who are out of public office to work from the very first day of the formation of any government for its downfall, is truly a despicable and irresponsible behaviour, by whoever engages in it. Shouldering responsibility is an honour and a duty, not a gain. Furthermore, objective and responsible opposition whose sole intention is to improve the overall performance is the only opposition worthy of respect and appreciation, and is the only form of opposition which we need. Our process can rid itself of all forms of practices which are not in harmony with its constitutional, ethical and humanitarian orientation. For our people are responsible and aware. They monitor and observe the process along with our trustworthy security departments, which are characterised by discipline, sincerity and observance of the letter of the law and the constitution. Their vigilance ensures that all those who violate the law, or national unity, are brought to justice so that if convicted, they would receive their fair punishment.

The judiciary shall remain to be the subject of our appreciation and attention, so that it can always be identified with impartiality, fairness and independence, and so that it can become an example of modern Jordanian institutions; a haven for those who seek refuge for different reasons, and where all are equal before the law, regardless of status.

**Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,**

It is with optimism and gratification that we witness, along with the rest of the nation, the commendable political trends which have recently emerged in the wake of the upheavals that have befallen our nation of late. We had always warned against the occurrence of these disastrous events; the wounds that they would inflict and the repercussions that they would leave behind.

Inter-Arab relations have improved following a destructive and harmful estrangement which almost filtered through to affect ordinary people, had it not been for the grace of the Almighty and the wisdom of my fellow Arab leaders. The Arab masses clung, as we did, to their faith in the unity of our nation, and to the firm belief that it is destined to fuse together in one hemisphere, in an age that has witnessed the blending of many a diverse nation into one matrix in spite of the wars and bloodshed that divided them for decades. They have now corrected their path and proven their respected place and existence among nations.

Our collective work shall focus on restoring cohesion between all the countries of the Nation without exception. A cohesion that would be based on solid foundations of mutual respect, mutual non-interference in internal and external affairs, and the freedom of the Arab people in their different countries to choose their respective models.

**Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,**

We will do our utmost to concentrate our efforts towards the attainment of a just, comprehensive and durable peace. A peace that would be sustainable, as we firmly believe that the only alternative to peace is death and destruction. All that obstructs the awesome current of peace, whether illusory or imaginary ambitions, is doomed to be washed away as long as the ultimate objective is a durable peace that brings about the long-awaited development. Development is the common objective of all peoples and it is the goal that we work diligently in order to achieve, for the welfare and benefit of our people. It will enable us to protect our beloved country and its people, be they hard working farmers or innovative industrialists; honest businessmen or skilled professionals.

Much work lies ahead as we endeavour to reshape our lives, and acclimatise our establishment to the standards of the modern world. Our present and future generations deserve nothing short of what would enable them to express their excellent potential and creative ability, so that they may inherit the land as righteous and conscientious people away from whatever may prevent them from being free masters in a homeland that we have built on freedom, honour, and pride.

"[This will be] their cry therein: 'Glory to thee, O God!' And 'Peace' will be their greeting therein! And the close of their cry will be: 'Praise be to God, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds!'"

**Honourable Senators, Honourable Deputies,**

Peace be upon you and God's mercy and blessings.



# Palestinians to seek a billion dollar in aid at donor conference today

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Palestinians will ask for nearly one billion dollars from donor nations in Paris Wednesday in a bid to bolster their economy, which has been crippled by a nearly year-long Israeli closure.

President Yasser Arafat will attend the conference of some 40 donor nations and international agencies, where his Palestinian National Authority will present its investment needs for 1997.

The conference comes after a disastrous year for the Palestinians, during which the donor programme has largely had to concentrate on keeping the economy afloat amid strict Israeli travel restrictions.

"Because of the turmoil this year and the closure, donor countries have had to refunnel their money away from middle-term projects building infrastructure into short-term projects like job creation," Ali Khader, deputy representative for the World Bank, told AFP.

Instead of building roads, for example, donor funds have gone into employing

Palestinians to whitewash buildings in Gaza or dig trenches using manual labour instead of machines to employ more workers, he said.

Some \$165 million out of \$414 million delivered to the Palestinians this year have been moved into short-term projects.

The closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, imposed after a series of anti-Israeli suicide bombings in February and March, has prevented Palestinian workers and exports from entering Israel and, at times, even blocked movement between West Bank cities.

Palestinian officials say the closure has caused up to \$9 million a day in losses and pushed unemployment up to 60 per cent in Gaza and 35 per cent in the West Bank.

"Countries look at the discouraging political situation here and they have in many cases decided to postpone their donations," said Adnan Al Amad, director of aid coordination at the Palestinian Economic

Council for Development and Reconstruction (PEC-DAR).

Palestinians have frequently complained of donor nations' failure to live up to their pledges since the aid programme was launched in 1993 in a bid to build the economy in the territories parallel to negotiations on the establishment of Palestinian autonomy.

Donor countries have so far provided only half of the total \$2.4 billion they have pledged since 1994.

They promised over \$830 million for 1996 but reduced the amount in a meeting in January, where they set a goal to deliver \$500 million over the year. Around \$414 million has been delivered since.

Meanwhile, the World Bank has denounced an "economic embargo" imposed by Israel on the Palestinian territories and said it was harming investment prospects for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Private companies do not invest in countries that are

under an economic embargo," said Knudsen, the World Bank representative in the territories, told AFP.

"Effectively, there is an economic embargo in place" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, he said.

Israel has sealed off the Palestinian territories intermittently since March following a wave of suicide bombings in occupied Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

The move has driven tens of thousands of Palestinians who once held jobs in Israel into unemployment and choked the Palestinian economy.

The blockade was eased recently "to avoid dangerously aggravating the economic difficulties of the Palestinians."

"It's very difficult for private investors to come in and to make investments," Mr. Knudsen said. "They cannot move their commodities or move themselves (in the autonomous territories)." The World Bank is the key organisation in charge of channelling international aid to the Palestinians.

"There is no doubt that the Palestinian economy has suffered considerably," the World Bank representative said. "There has been no peace dividend so far. In fact there has been an economic decline."

Gross national product of the Palestinian territories has dropped by 23 per cent in four years, according to a recent U.N. report.

The World Bank representative stressed that the countries that pledged \$2.4 billion in aid to the Palestinians in 1993 "are not

willing to pay for closure" because it exacerbates unemployment and tax revenues decline.

This situation forces the international community to sacrifice long-term investments necessary to launch the Palestinian economy, fill the budget deficit gap and create temporary jobs.

Mr. Knudsen estimated that next year donor countries will unblock nearly \$500 million for the Palestinians.

## France mulls easing taxes on the rich

PARIS (R) — The French government is considering easing a special tax on the wealthy so that rich people do not flee the country, Urban Affairs and Integration Minister Eric Raoult said Sunday. "We would not want the hen that lays a golden egg to leave...allowing capital to escape, little by little, out of the country," Mr. Raoult said in an interview on French Radio J. He acknowledged that the so-called "solidarity tax on great wealth" was popular with the public but said he believed the right balance could be found to keep the public satisfied while encouraging the wealthy to remain on French soil.

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You can handle certain responsibilities today if you stick to them and are precise. Find better methods for use in the days ahead. Later tonight you can seek the advice of a bigwig to complete any new career activities.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Be tactful today in handling a clever partner, so that you can complete any assignments which are presented. Don't commit yourself to any further outside interests at this time or you could find yourself in great difficulties.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Your career activities seem annoying to those fellow associates as the week opens, however, keep at it studiously. Avoid the limelight later this evening or you could find yourself in an embarrassing situation which you don't need.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Do whatever will soothe your mate's feelings today and thereby bring harmony to your residence. Carry through with the tasks you have scheduled and thereby you can achieve the prosperity and success you desire.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Take time today to get rid of any tensions at home so that your loved ones will be appreciative of the harmony which exists. Show that you are truly devoted and affectionate towards your mate by doing special gestures.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Make sure your reply today to questions accurately where your career activities are concerned so that those in authority will be appreciative. Don't permit outsiders to upset you this evening so that tonight can be pleasant.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Handle that important financial matter today in an efficient manner, then you can have fun with close friends. Get the data you need for making out reports, which are important to those in authority and thereby gain your success.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Don't be so eager today to have your own way or you could disturb the feeling of a bigwig who could make your business environment difficult. Forget a plan tonight which could cost you too much money and effort.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You may seem deadlocked today at gaining some personal aim, however, keep plugging along and you can achieve your success. Later this evening you are able to get it without too much effort on your part and recognition.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Do not try today to convince a stubborn friend with your views since he or she has their own point of view. Plan how to fix a difficult situation which is present and thereby you can achieve success through a bigwig noticing you.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Don't go to any bigwig for a favour today as he or she will be in a foul mood and not likely to be of assistance. Get your career activities completed and everything will be fine. Avoid an irate friend this evening.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Use mature judgement today and rely less on some hunch which keeps pecking at you for eventual resolution. Study that civic matter later this evening and devise a plan of action whereby you can achieve great success.

## New civil service ready before

THE NEW civil service regulatory body, the Administrative Tribunal, is expected to be ready before the end of this year. Mr. Arafat said the current regulatory body, the Administrative Tribunal, is expected to be ready before the end of this year. Mr. Arafat said the current regulatory body, the Administrative Tribunal, is expected to be ready before the end of this year.

## Minister abolishes 'a'

MINISTER RAZZAQ TBEISH, Minister of Education, has abolished the letter 'a' from the alphabet. He said the letter 'a' was not used in the Arabic language and was a hindrance to the development of the language.

## Morocco privatisation chief wants unlimited sales

RABAT (R) — Morocco's privatisation minister wants to sweep away curbs on selling state holdings, including sectors such as electricity and water.

"I don't see any monopoly which is still worth keeping. Transportation — we have to open our skies. Road transport — everyone can do it. Tobacco, I believe the government should be authorised to privatise all entities and corporations," Minister Abou Rahmane Saadi told Reuters.

"What we consider strategic is not what we have considered in the past as strategic. And even strategic activities, we believe they don't have to be public," he said.

Mr. Saadi said he wanted strategic privatisation aimed at improving investment, modernisation and recruitment, rather than sales of assets simply to maximise revenues.

His ministry wants to change the policy of setting minimum prices for asset

sales and of publishing specific lists of holdings on offer.

"We have received the green light on the principle of the changes but we are still negotiating (with the government) the final wording," before proposals go to parliament, he said.

Telecommunications will be one area opened up, under its own legislation, with a regulatory body created.

"I think the government should be authorised to transfer all public participations...Do we really need an electricity monopoly? Is it the best thing for consumers, for the Moroccan economy?" said the minister in a weekend interview.

"Our philosophy is to privatise the maximum which can be privatised," he said, echoing his words last month to an emerging markets conference in New York when he spoke of tackling "the big ones — to sell part of the railroad or national airline, to open up the port authority,

and to hive off the downstream phosphate processing."

Morocco has so far transferred to the private sector 27 of the 77 firms listed for sale, and 18 of 37 hotels on the list.

This has raised 9.7 billion dirhams (\$1.1 billion), with 10 firms and four hotels sold in whole or part to foreign buyers, who accounted for 27 per cent of total privatisation revenue.

Buyers have committed themselves to invest a further \$260 million. But sales have brought some hard lessons.

"We found ourselves in a difficult situation, mainly for hotels...because sometimes we were forced to declare a winner...with a slightly higher price and not very good investment programme...and others were out of the running with very attractive ideas and investment programmes," he said.

Mr. Saadi wants a single 10-strong commission to set an indicative, not minimum,

price. Investors could offer more or less, and the government would also not be obliged to sell.

His ministry this month advertised nine hotels for sale at a minimum total price of \$11 million, 30 per cent below that asked when they were first floated two years ago.

"The market responded (then) negatively, they were too high. We didn't even know what the market was able to pay," he said.

Mr. Saadi said he expected a positive response now although the situation had worsened — "when the management of the hotels know (they are for sale), they stop seeking clients and developing reservations."

His ministry had also found that some companies originally on the list could not be sold without changes to the laws governing their creation.

These experiences have prompted Mr. Saadi to try to avoid any listing. He would prefer the principle of all being open for sale, with the government announcing that "X" company was now on offer, or perhaps a "negative list" of those not for sale.

## REUTERS REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5026	0.5971	1.2680	111.30	1.3415	1612.40	1.6850	5.0814
DE Mark	0.6655	1.0000	0.3970	0.8437	74.07	0.8926	1006.05	1.1214	3.3817
GB Sterling	1.6748	2.5173	1.0000	2.1232	166.36	2.2467	2533.27	2.8224	8.5113
CH Franc	0.7886	1.1841	0.4703	1.0000	87.77	1.0575	1192.37	132.89	4.0052
JP Yen	0.0090	0.0134	0.0053	0.0118	1.0000	0.0094	117.24	1.6127	4.5618
CA Dollar	0.7454	1.1101	0.4455	0.9436	1.20	1.0000	1125.68	1.2531	3.7008
IT Lira	0.0007	0.0011	0.0004	0.0009	0.0001	0.0008	1.0000	0.0001	0.0003
NL Guilder	0.5935	0.8913	0.3540	0.8037	1361.47	0.8858	1.0000	0.9362	3.0145
FR Franc	0.1968	0.2956	0.1174	0.2442	21.88	0.2640	33.16	1.0000	3.3333

Energy					Mid-East Currencies				
Oil	Last	Previous	Oil	Previous	Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY
Brent	23.25	23.00	SA Riyal	0.2066	0.4008	0.15818	0.33831	29.7036	
WTI	24.20	23.80	AE Dirham	0.2723	0.40922	0.19254	0.34845	30.3306	
Bony	23.25	23.00	KW Dinar	3.3557	5.04286	2.00321	4.25713	373.832	
Dubai	20.75	21.10	BHD Dinar	0.3765	3.99202	1.58554	3.37041	295.858	
UL Gas	212.00	217.00	CY Pound	2.182	3.2781	1.202	2.7652	242.846	

Metal Prices					Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)				
Metal	Unit	Price	Unit	Price	Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Gold (m/s)	378.2	378.7	USD	5.25	5.37	5.37	5.46	5.50	
Silver (m/s)	4.89	4.91	GBP	6.06	6.25	6.31	6.56	6.75	
Platinum (m/s)	383.5	384.5	JPY	0.46	0.52	0.58	0.63	0.62	
AL (3 Months)	1443	1444	DEM	3.00	3.07	3.05	3.15	3.19	
CU (3 Months)	2210	2213	FRF	3.29	3.31	3.37	3.42	3.50	
Zinc (3 Months)	1059	1060	CHF	1.60	1.63	1.61	2.00	2.03	
Lead (3 Months)	700	701	ITL	7.37	7.12	6.89	6.68	6.59	
Ni (3 Months)	6825	6830							

Main Equity Indices					JOD Cross Rates				
Bourse	Index	Value	Change	% Chg	Currency	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
New York	DOW JONES	6383.81	36.9	0.58	US Dollar	0.708	0.710		
New York	S&P 500	740.17	3.15	0.43	GB Sterling	1.182	1.1879		
London	FT-SE 100	3970.6	8.5	0.21	DE Mark	0.4709	0.4733		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20956.16	159.81	0.77	CH Franc	0.5575	0.5603		
Paris	CAC 40	2235.95	7.14	0.32	FR Franc	0.1392	0.1399		
Frankfurt	DAX	2764.09	0.25	0.01	JP Yen	0.0333	0.0335		
					NL Guilder	0.4199	0.422		
					IT Lira	0.4673	0.4696		

Energy					JOD Cross Rates				
Commodity	Last	Delivery	Commodity	Last	Currency	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Coffee (c/lbs)	120.33	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710				
Cocoa (c/ton)	1358	Spot	GB Sterling	1.182	1.1879				
Sugar (c/ton)	310.9	Spot	DE Mark	0.4709	0.4733				
Wheat (c/ton)	133	Spot	CH Franc	0.5575	0.5603				
Soya (c/lbs)	22.33	Spot	FR Franc	0.1392	0.1399				
Tea (c/kg)	118	Spot	JP Yen	0.0333	0.0335				
Barley (c/ton)	2.18	Spot	NL Guilder	0.4199	0.422				
Rice (c/ton)	470	Spot	IT Lira	0.4673	0.4696				

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

## THE Daily Crossword by Chuck Deodene

**ACROSS**

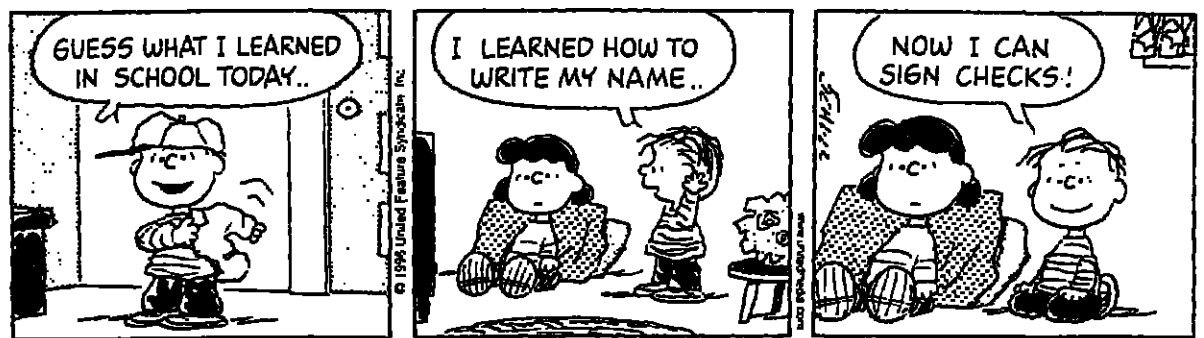
- 1 Bivouac
- 5 Prosperous time
- 9 Hippo-like mammal
- 14 Exam type
- 15 First name in advice
- 16 Win by —
- 17 Sluggish
- 18 Sc — (armen)
- 19 Moll Lazarus cartoon
- 20 Pierre's pal
- 21 Suffer consequences
- 23 Vanzetti's partner
- 25 Land of tennis
- 26 Goat
- 28 Kind of cube
- 29 Skier's tow
- 33 Tail
- 35 Deface
- 36 "I — Camera"
- 37 Grad
- 38 Clean a bass
- 40 Gator's kin
- 41 Abolitionist
- 42 "You're it" game
- 43 Full of pluck
- 45 Patella site
- 47 Nettle
- 48 Toothpaste holder
- 49 PDC
- 51 Perhaps
- 54 Quick campaign visit
- 60 Office transmission
- 61 Waste maker
- 62 Croaker
- 63 Banquet
- 64 Amend
- 65 Bronte heroine
- 66 Distant
- 67 Bond portrayer
- 68 Statistics
- 69 Waist girder

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**DOWN**

- 4 Layer
- 5 Rum cake
- 6 Head
- 7 Note of remembrance
- 8 Legendary
- 9 Buccaneers' home
- 10 Oil
- 11 Circumstance partner
- 12 "Woe —"
- 13 Stern
- 21 Sulk
- 22 Hillary's conquest
- 24 Quahog
- 27 Animalistic
- 28 Reflection
- 30 Mayberry deputy
- 31 Franzied
- 32 Risque
- 33 Standing
- 34 Lust for life
- 39 With shag on the floor
- 40 Caribbean land
- 44 Inflator
- 48 Type of bunny
- 50 Cubic meter
- 52 Insipid
- 53 Apply force
- 54 Impact sound
- 55 Heavenly ring
- 56 Analogy words
- 57 Protein-rich bean
- 58 Sour
- 59 Greek theaters
- 63 Small amount

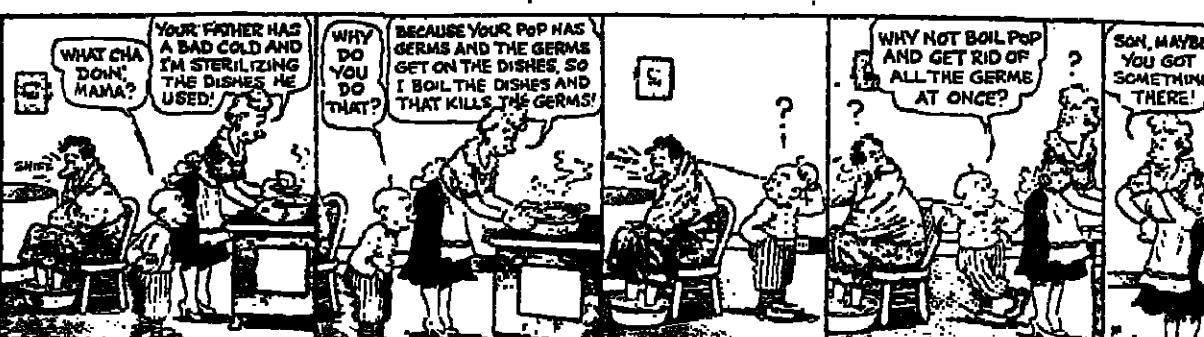
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye.

## Business

### Tabbaa

By Lantia Tabbaa

Forty-two representatives of the country's business community will meet in the Middle East North Africa summit in which closed on...

The summit is the first of its kind in the region and is expected to attract a large number of international business leaders. The summit will focus on the challenges facing the business community in the region and will provide an opportunity for business leaders to share their experiences and discuss ways to overcome these challenges.

The summit is being organized by the Jordanian Business Association and is expected to be a success. It will provide a platform for business leaders to discuss the challenges facing the business community in the region and will provide an opportunity for business leaders to share their experiences and discuss ways to overcome these challenges.

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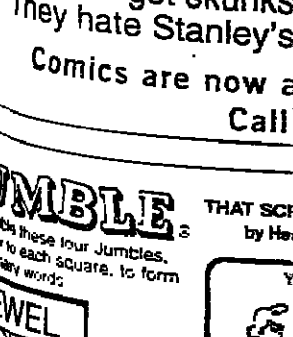
## Minister abolishes 'a'

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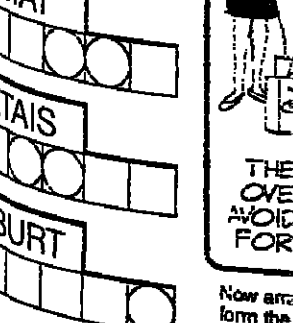
## THE BETTER HALF



## JUMBLE



## JUMBLE





## Tabbaa urges government to include private sector businessmen in official delegations

By Lamia Tabbaa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Forty-two representatives of the country's private sector accompanied Jordan's official delegation to the Middle East North Africa (MENA) summit in Cairo which closed on Thursday.

"But while the inclusion of so many businessmen in an official delegation is welcome news to Jordan's private sector, we are afraid this is a one-time occurrence," says Hamdi Tabbaa, Chairman of the Jordanian Businessmen Association.

"What we would like to see is a permanent change in the system whereby most if not all government delegations include businessmen from now on," Mr. Tabbaa maintains.

"Today, the world is a big village and we are told by the World Bank and other such institutions that the private sector has to play a

greater role in stimulating the economy, but how do we translate these words into action?" asks Mr. Tabbaa, himself a former minister of Trade and Industry.

To support his request, Mr. Tabbaa cites many examples of visiting delegations who come accompanied by substantial numbers of private sector businessmen.

"Only last week, the Turkish foreign minister, Mr. Tansu Ciller, who came to Jordan for one day, had brought with her about seventy businessmen."

One reason why the gov-



Hamdi Tabbaa

ernment, according to Mr. Tabbaa, should invite private sector businessmen to accompany them abroad.

"Some of these officials are not as knowledgeable on the technicalities of the economy and investment climate as we are (the private sector businessmen) are. They cannot argue because they do not have the technical background," he says.

Mr. Tabbaa cites last year's MENA summit in Amman as a clear example of full public-private sector cooperation. "But we only had one meeting of the follow-up committee headed by the Minister of Trade to follow up on the MENA results," he complains.

"We meet on an erratic basis. Sometimes they (the government) listen and at other times they do not," he says referring to the sporadic meetings between the two sectors.

The JBA, in cooperation with the Chambers of Commerce and Industry is currently working on a draft for the formation of a council headed by the Prime Minister and comprising public and private sector repre-

sentatives. "The council will act as a point of reference and will prove to us the government's commitment to really involve the private sector in the economy's revival," Mr. Tabbaa argues.

"This council will meet and discuss new laws, bilateral trade agreements before they go to parliament. The joint council will serve as a screening mechanism for new laws and trade agreements," he says.

Mr. Tabbaa believes that the reason the private sector is not called upon to participate in official trips is because the government has not yet taken it seriously, "which is partly the fault of the private sector itself."

"Sometimes the private sector businessmen do not come prepared to meetings with the public sector," he says, adding that at other times they bring in their personal interest into the meetings.

But in the final analysis, Mr. Tabbaa says, "all we want is to be given a fair chance to prove ourselves."

## Japan studying \$76m loan for Jordan's tourism sector

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Japanese government is considering a Jordanian request for a loan of about \$76 million to the Kingdom's tourism sector and a decision is expected next year, Japanese Ambassador Takayuki Kimura said Tuesday.

The loan, as and when approved, will be spent on tourism infrastructure as well as setting up new tourism sites and upgrading existing ones as part of Jordan's master plan to develop the tourism sector, the first to benefit from the Middle East peace process.

Projects in the plan include a national museum, "tourist alleys" in downtown Amman and in Karak, parking and recreation areas, information centres and upgrading facilities available at tourist sites.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Tokyo government's arm to implement projects financed under grant aid, has conducted a study on segments of the Kingdom's master plan.

The study, financed by the

Japanese government and formally presented during the Japan Week in Amman in July, is expected to lead into concrete projects subject to financing arrangements.

Ambassador Kimura said the Jordanian request for the loan was "under consideration in Tokyo, and we expect a final decision next year."

The ambassador noted that Tokyo had dispatched at least two missions to discuss the loan request with Jordanian officials.

Mr. Kimura said he was not aware that the Tokyo government had actually decided to grant the loan. He was commenting on a report in the local press that said such a decision had already been made.

"The Japanese embassy in Amman is not aware of any decision to grant the loan," he said.

Mr. Kimura, however, affirmed that the request was being considered favourably and that the loan would be coming through but that the official procedures have to be followed before a formal decision is made.

Jordan has also requested a \$60 million loan from Japan for its human resources development projects. The funds will be spent on building new schools. That request is also under consideration by the Tokyo government.

In per capita terms, Japan is Jordan's largest foreign donor. Tokyo's assistance to the Kingdom, in soft loans and rescheduling of outstanding debts as well as grant aid, topped \$500 million in fiscal 1995-96.

Tourism and the environment are two sectors that Japan is focusing on in the context of assistance to Jordan. Japan chairs the working group on the environment in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process. The Tokyo government has already supplied \$5.5 million worth of equipment to set up a marine pollution monitoring and fighting station at Aqaba. The station, which will work in close coordination with counterparts in Israel and Egypt, is expected to be operational before the end of the year.

## Daily Business

A review of news from the Arabic press

### New civil service regulations to be ready before end of 1996

THE NEW civil service regulations being prepared by the Ministry of Administrative Development will be ready before the end of this year, Minister Kamal Nasser said today. The minister added that a special committee has completed drawing an overall organizational structure of the government and, as such, the functions of the ministries, departments and institutions will be reactivated.

Dr. Nasser spoke about corruption and classified it into two categories:

1- Financial corruption which is a matter that should be dealt with legally as every civil servant found guilty should be punished according to the law.

2- Administrative corruption which has resulted from the accumulation of bad practices.

He stressed that fighting administrative corruption should be by limiting exceptions in appointments and by specifying in detail the bases for hiring staff. Furthermore, the minister pointed out, there should be a total ban on favoritism and "connections" in seeking employment. Dr. Nasser saw a real and applicable system of accountability as a needed measure at this stage (Al Ra'i).

### Minister abolishes 'adviser' posts

ABDUL RAZZAQ TBEISHAT, the minister of municipalities and rural affairs, has abolished all the posts of "advisers" saying that there were too many of them at his ministry. He indicated that their advice was never sought for anything of concern to the ministry. The minister added that despite having nothing to do "the advisers were hindering the work by moving from one office to another to pass the time." (Al Ra'i).

SCORPIO: (November 22 to December 21) You may be deadlocked today trying to get some personal views since he or she views from their own point of view. Plan how to fix a difficult situation which is not and thereby you will achieve success.

Capricorn: (November 22 to January 19) Do not try today to convince stubborn friend with views since he or she views from their own point of view. Plan how to fix a difficult situation which is not and thereby you will achieve success.

Aquarius: (January 20 to February 18) Do not try today to convince stubborn friend with views since he or she views from their own point of view. Plan how to fix a difficult situation which is not and thereby you will achieve success.

Pisces: (February 19 to March 20) Use judgement today and less on some harsh words. Keep pecking at your eventual resolution. That civic matter that evening and decide of action whereby you achieve great success.

Birthe: (March 21 to April 19) You can be certain responsible and are precise. Try methods for use in you can seek the new career completion.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Be tactful in handling a client's plea, so that you complete any assignment which are necessary. Don't commit yourself further outside. You could find your great difficulties.

Gemini: (May 21 to June 21) Your activities seem to be as the week opens. Ever, keep at it steadily. Avoid the lightning. This evening or you find yourself in a surprising situation. You don't need.

Leo: (July 22 to August 22) Take time today, rid of any terms home so that your ones will be apparent of the human existence. Show that truly devoted and fortunate and your by doing special.

Virgo: (August 23 to September 22) Make your reply today. Accurately your career activities concerned so that the authority will be aggressive. Don't permit sides to open up. Evening so that it can be pleasant.

Libra: (September 23 to October 22) Be that important matter today in a client manner. You can have fun with friends. Get the need for making reports, which are relevant to those in state and thereby gain success.

Scorpio: (November 22 to December 21) You may be deadlocked today trying to get some personal views since he or she views from their own point of view. Plan how to fix a difficult situation which is not and thereby you will achieve success.

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### Seminar presents computer filing technique

By Christina Schlegel  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While increasing numbers of PC-users belong to Jordan's Internet-Surfing community, many are still filing company and personal paperwork the old-fashioned way.

But now several local computer companies claim they can help out.

The "document and workflow management system" is currently being introduced by one of the country's leading computer companies.

The programme's presentation is taking place in a three-day-seminar and a special exhibition at the InterContinental Hotel, which began Sunday.

During the morning seminar, potential customers such as the banking sector, insurance companies, hotels and government departments were introduced to the new technology, which, according to Nabil Ashkar, the company's marketing and sales manager, saves time and money for its user.

The afternoons are open to the public or to "everybody who deals with paper."

Such filing systems, says Mr. Ashkar, are already widely in use in the U.S. and Europe. They are PC-based comprehensive archiving and document image management solutions and take care of the entire filing process within a person's field of work, he says.

The presented imaging programme, which is compatible to Windows 95, is said to integrate, access, distribute and control paper-based information throughout companies or individual desktops.

It provides its user with services like the collection and storage of image documents, fax-sending and additional images to your current desktop applications.

Cheque-clearing, for example can also be done totally automatically and thus saves paper and time, when searching for a certain file.

On the other hand it saves the client time as well, for the reason stated above.

"The programme," Mr. Ashkar said, "is very compatible and can be used by everyone. It is not limited to one sector."

Asked whether Jordanian companies already take advantage of such a programme, Mr. Ashkar said that there are not any so far.

"Jordan is trailing behind in the usage of the latest information technology compared to first world countries but not in terms of its knowledge," Mr. Ashkar explained.

The reason for that, he said, is the low purchasing power which affects the market quite heavily.

"There is a knowledgeable response to such products, but people simply cannot afford them," Mr. Ashkar added.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHEIKH SAUD											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 19/11/1996											
PART	12 MONTHS HIGH	12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
	252.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	13.4	1.43	6	140	34300	245.00	245.00	-
	4.700	4.250	CAIRO AMMAN BANK	8.8	3.53	8	20000	85000	4.25	4.25	-
	1.250	1.000	MID-EAST INV. BK.	5.0	6.33	3	875	1924	2.25	2.25	-
	2.700	2.120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.0	6.33	3	875	1924	2.25	2.25	-
	2.250	1.250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.8	2.89	4	2250	10732	4.75	4.77	.02
	3.040	2.350	JOR. KIWAT BANK	18.1	0.00	2	220	520	2.50	2.50	-
	1.200	1.000	JOR. GULF BANK	5.4	7.69	17	38130	34697	2.1	2.1	-
	5.180	3.100	ARAB ISLAMIC BANK	17.4	0.00	5	789	2860	3.62	3.63	.01
\$	3.930	1.400	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	9	0.00	1	700	1064	1.52	1.52	-
	1.590	1.000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	1	150	168	1.24	1.25	.01
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 187.41 %CHG: -0.01		55	79354	18848				
	1.900	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.8	7.69	21	19000	29797	1.56	1.56	-
+	4.050	4.250	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	16.7	3.06	2	1110	4662	4.25	4.20	-.05
	1.950	1.080	NATL. PORTFOLIO	16.7	0.00	2	3250	3589	1.10	1.11	.01
+	1.050	0.880	REAL ESTATE INV.	19.3	4.28	1	200	174	.89	.87	-.02
	1.250	0.980	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	31.8	0.00	1	500	310	.59	.62	.03
	1.270	0.960	ZARQA EDUCATION	9	5.92	8	1600	1632	1.02	1.02	-
+	2.430	1.700	UNIFIED CO.	8.9	0.00	3	600	1014	1.70	1.69	-.01
	1.200	0.820	UNION LAMU DEV.	8	0.00	3	1850	1873	.86	.85	-.01
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 107.03 %CHG: -0.36		45	28110	42737				
	3.770	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	18.5	3.10	2	62	200	3.23	3.23	-
	5.960	4.780	ARAB POTASH CO.	17.2	3.53	2	1800	10206	5.75	5.67	-.08
	10.550	8.720	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	9.2	8.77	3	364	3215	9.10	9.12	.02
	3.750	1.050	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGRI.	26.5	0.00	1	150	296	1.95	1.97	.02
+	8.150	6.200	JOR. AGRI. HILLS	8.8	3.62	2	1500	10350	6.90	6.90	-
	4.870	3.080	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	16.9	6.51	17	3660	11207	3.09	3.07	-.02
	6.450	5.650	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.5	4.17	1	5000	30000	6.00	6.00	-
	1.000	0.400	JOR. JEWELRY MANUFACT.	8.9	7.45	5	840	1350	1.60	1.61	.01
	2.250	1.380	RAPIA INDUSTRIES	7	2.88	2	180	248	1.42	1.38	-.04
	8.000	4.250	DAR ALDAMA DEV. INV.	11.8	4.45	1	500	2150	4.35	4.30	-.05
	5.800	3.120	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.0	9.32	4	309	995	3.30	3.22	-.08
	.960	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	37	55960	30221	.53	.54	.01
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 109.45 %CHG: -0.78		198	147210	219180				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 146.34 %CHG: -0.32		298	254674	450373				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 19/11/1996											
	.790	.440	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	23.3	0.00	8	3400	1899	.55	.58	.03
	.800	.520	JOR. TRADE FAC.	13.9	0.00	12	7800	3994	.52	.52	-
N	.950	.440	NATL. COMMER. CENTERS	67.0	0.00	22	27865	13900	.46	.50	.02
	.930	.700	UNION INV. 501	67.0	0.00	14	30526	6104	.70	.70	-
	1.110	.400	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	15	16750	7005	.41	.42	.01
N	.950	.690	AL-DAMLIYAH 751	9	0.00	1	200	92	.69	.71	.02
	.640	.340	JOR. IND. MATCH-JEMCO	9	0.00	7	33550	5495	.35	.35	-
	1.780	1.110	NATL. CHLORINE	9	0.00	2	950	1245	1.31	1.31	-
	1.000	.430	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	2	500	288	.57	.58	.01
N	1.100	.580	JOR. JEWELRY MANUFACT.	8.9	7.45	5	840	1350	1.60	1.61	.01
	1.080	.750	NATL. TOBACCO 752	9	0.00	14	8650	3806	.43	.44	.01
	1.330	1.040	UNION TOBACCO 752	9	0.00	2	600	1200	.75	.75	-
	.840	.580	RAZI PHARM. 651	25.3	0.00	1	3500	817	.58	.58	-
	.830	.500	IND. ENDS. ENG.	25.3	0.00	6	1500	205	.40	.41	.01
	.880	.590	KATL. POULTRY	25.3	0.00	6	15740	963	.61	.61	-
N	.950	.800	ARAB INTL. FOOD FACT.	56.2	0.00	1	400	320	.81	.80	-.01
N	1.500	.530	MID-EAST COMPLEX	7.5	0.00	20	12450	8036	.69	.64	-.01
GRAND TOTAL					135	146931	64397				
+ New 12 months low											
+ Stock dividend during the past 12 months											
+ Listed during the past 12 months											
+ P/E ratio is 100 or more											
+ Negative P/E											
+ Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year											





Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini (R) gets flowers from Germany's Steffi Graf as the USA's Monica Seles (L) watches during Sabatini's retirement ceremonies at the WTA Championships at New York's Madison Square Garden. Sabatini announced her retirement last month after a 12-year career (Reuters photo)

## Sabatini waves goodbye one final time

NEW YORK (R) — Gabriela Sabatini waved goodbye one final time Monday when the tennis star was honoured between matches on the opening night of the season-ending WTA Championships.

Sabatini, 26, announced her retirement last month after a 12-year pro career in which she won 27 singles titles and more than \$8 million in prize money. The glamorous dark-haired Argentine, wearing a black sleeveless cocktail dress, was presented with a bouquet of roses from her long-time rivals Steffi Graf and Monica Seles and was remembered with a video tribute in the half-hour on-court ceremony at Madison Square Garden.

"This is a lot harder than being here and playing tennis," Sabatini said of missing the championships for the first time in her career.

Sabatini saluted the fans and the city where she had scored the biggest wins of her career at the 1990 U.S. Open and the 1994 and '88 season-ending championships.

"What a better place to do it than here at Madison Square Garden," Sabatini told the sparse crowd.

Sabatini is ranked 56 in the world, having fallen out of the world's top 10 for the first time since 1985 as she struggled with a stomach injury. She was sidelined for about three months, missing the French Open and Wimbledon before returning at the Olympics.

Sabatini played her last match at the European indoor championships in Zurich on October 15, losing to Jennifer Capriati 6-3 6-4 in the first round.

Sabatini plans to concentrate on a new perfume that will bear her

name and a line of signature bed and bathroom linens and towels. She also might pursue a singing career, after taking lessons in her layoff this year. She was given a karaoke machine to further her aspirations.

## Hingis makes smashing debut at WTA Championships

NEW YORK (R) — Swiss teen sensation Martina Hingis made a smashing debut at the season-ending Chase Championships by walloping Irina Spirlea 6-1 6-2 Monday.

Since reaching the U.S. open semifinals two months ago, the 16-year-old Hingis has climbed from 16th to fifth in the world by winning two tournaments. She reached the final at another and the semifinals at a fourth.

Hingis, who handed Monica Seles a 6-2, 6-0 beating eight days ago in the Oakland final, was not pressed by her overmatched Romanian foe who made 25 unforced errors in the 41-minute match at Madison Square Garden.

"For my first time here, it was not a bad experience," Hingis said.

Hingis won the opening five games of the match, giving up seven points on the way. Spirlea never had a break point opportunity.

"I liked the way I played today. To win 6-1 6-2 there are not so many things to improve on anymore," said Hingis, whose seeding is based on last week's rankings. "I didn't make any mistakes today."

Hingis' easy victory was matched by the 1994 runner-up Lindsay Davenport, but not by last year's finalist Anke Huber.

Davenport, this year's Olympics champion, battered Austrian Barbara Paulus 6-3 6-2. But Huber made a quick exit, losing to Iva Majoli 7-5 6-3 before a sparse crowd of 8,786.

Ailing defending champion Steffi Graf is scheduled to play her first match in the \$2 million tournament against Karina Habsudova of Slovakia Tuesday.

The top-seeded German was forced to quit in the middle of her match against Jana Novotna in the final of the Advanta Championships on Sunday in Philadelphia with a flare-up of chronic back pain.

"She hit for about 20 minutes today and continues to get better," tournament spokesperson Jim Fuhse said of the reigning French Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion. "Hopefully she will be totally ready for tomorrow's match."

Also scheduled is the second-seeded Seles against Japan's Kimiko Date, who is retiring after this tournament.

Davenport's win snapped the 20-year-old American out of a three-week funk during which she had failed to get past the quarter-finals in her last three tournaments.

"I probably played some of my not greatest tennis the last couple of weeks, and I was so nervous coming in here because you never



Lindsay Davenport

know how you're going to play after you've been playing pretty bad for awhile," said Davenport, a first round loser last week in Philadelphia. "I think that made me a little more concentrated and I wanted to win this match very badly."

Davenport dominated Paulus, the last qualifier for the elite 16-player field, by

losing only 10 points in nine service games. Paulus never had a break point chance and managed to scratch out just two points on Davenport's serve in the final set of the 50-minute mismatch.

After losing in the first round the last two years, Majoli notched her first win at this tournament by out-

ting Huber from the baseline. The Croatian committed 15 fewer unforced errors in the one hour and 20 minute victory.

"I tried to concentrate hard and tried to win this first match and it wasn't easy. You get a little bit tight when you start thinking, 'Oh I can win it for the first time,'" said Majoli. 19. "But, I handled it pretty good and I won."

Huber got off to a struggling start, making four double faults in her first two service games, and never found the form that had carried the German to the Australian open final and three singles titles this year.

"I just didn't feel comfortable on the court the whole match," said Huber. 21. "It was just bad."

Majoli came out firing, taking a 5-2 first set lead, before Huber mounted a comeback, winning the next three games. Two games later, though, Huber dropped a forehand into the net on the second set point to close out the 44-minute set.

Majoli again took a commanding lead in the second set, taking a 3-0 lead with the loss of just six points. She went up 5-1 before Huber again rallied briefly by winning the next two games.

Majoli wrapped up the win on her first match point with a service winner.

## Armstrong hopes to resume racing next year

PARIS (R) — Former world champion Lance Armstrong, currently fighting cancer, said he was hoping to resume competitive racing next year.

"I want to race. I want to win again and I feel in my heart that I still can," the 25-year-old American said in an interview released on Tuesday by the French sports daily L'Equipe.

"It will all depend on the evolution of my cancer but I still hope to be able to resume training at the end of the year," added the 1993 road race world champion, who revealed last month that he had Testicular and abdominal cancer.

"At the moment, I ride 90 minutes a day on average. I'm not fit, obviously. My muscles are weak after two months out of action but I'll try to be back in the pack by the end of next spring."

Before he was aware of his illness, Armstrong signed a contract with new French team Cofidis, who will start racing next year.

Sporting director Cyrille Guimard, who also signed Swiss Tony Rominger and Italian Maurizio Fondriest, said Cofidis would still welcome Armstrong if he were fit enough to join them.



Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre is sacked for a 16-yard loss in the second quarter by Dallas Cowboys Leon Lett (L) and Broderick Thomas (R) in Irving, Texas. Dallas won 21-6 (Reuters photo)

## Cowboys beat Packers 21-6

DALLAS (R) — Chris Boniol tied an NFL record with seven field goals — five in the first half — and the defence held Brett Favre in check as the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Green Bay Packers 21-6 on Monday.

Boniol hit field goals of 45, 37, 42, 45 and 35 yards in the first half and 39 and 29 yards in the second half to join the St. Louis Cardinals Jim Bakken (1967) and Minnesota Viking's Rich Karlis (1989) as the only players to kick seven field goals in a game.

"I feel good," Boniol said. "It's something I'm proud of. 'I've been in bed 2-1/2 days with the flu and I didn't feel good in practice. But once the game started I felt okay.'"

Boniol's last field goal came with just 20 seconds left in regulation after Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman took a knee, leading the Packers to believe the Cowboys were going to run out the clock.

But the Cowboys kicked another field goal that angered the Packers, and a fight broke out.

The Packers' all-star defensive end, Reggie White, said, "the Cowboys

are classless. The game was (expletive) over."

Dallas held Green Bay without a touchdown until 1:53 remained in the game, long after the outcome was no longer in doubt. It was the fifth of 11 games this season that the Cowboys defence has held an opponent under 10 points.

Favre was held to just 194 yards, completing 21-of-36, most while under pressure from a swarming Dallas defence.

"Basically we came out to contain Bret and stop the run," said Dallas linebacker Broderick Thomas. "We have a package when I come in, and I went for the quarterback all day."

One bright spot for Green Bay was the play of tight end Keith Jackson, who had seven catches for 98 yards as Favre's primary target.

Aikman continued his strong play against the Packers, completing 24-of-35 passes for 206 yards. Emmitt Smith added 20 carries for 76 yards, and Michael Irvin had five receptions, including a pair of key catches in the first half, for 66 yards.

After stopping the Packers three-

and-out on the first series of the game, the Cowboys took over and needed just six plays to score. Aikman hit a 31-yard bomb to Irvin that put the ball on the Green Bay 31, and three plays later Boniol converted a 45-yard opportunity.

Another three-and-out by the Packers offence gave the Cowboys good position and they capitalised on it. Moving 35 yards in nine plays, Dallas seized a 9-0 advantage when Boniol hit a 42-yarder.

Again the Packers mustered nothing offensively, and Dallas took over near midfield. Aikman found Kevin Williams, who was returning from a broken foot, for 10 yards and Michael Irvin for nine. But the possession stalled and Boniol's fourth field goal was from 45 yards out.

Favre dropped back to pass three times on Green Bay's next drive and again failed to produce a first down. Dallas took over on its 20 and utilized the two-minute offence to drive to the Packers 17. Boniol hit a 35-yarder with seven seconds left in the half for a 15-0 advantage.

After the Dutchman's first on Wednesday since he was hit by a 750,000 switch in the second half of the game, he kept pressing and they put the clock on time when Car-

roll slammed home a field drive.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMMAM HIRSH  
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#### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- AKK74 CK542 CK9 AK3
- The bidding has proceeded:
- SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
- 1A Pass 27 Pass
- What do you bid now?
- A - If you play that partner's two-over-one response is forcing to game, all you need do now is raise in three hearts — four hearts would show no interest in anything beyond game. If not, jump to four hearts to show a better-than-minimum hand.
- Q. 2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- AQ1054 CK33 AKJ10 AK
- The bidding has proceeded:
- SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
- 1A Pass 27 Pass
- What do you bid now?
- A - Easy does it. Although partner's response is music to your ears, you still have a minimum in terms of point count. Set the trump suit by raising to three hearts and should partner make a slam try, cooperate happily.
- Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- AAK763 K104 AKKJ9
- The bidding has proceeded:
- SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
- 1A Pass 27 Pass
- What do you bid now?
- A - You have a good hand, and the trick is to bid first bid your second suit at the three-level, then raise hearts at your next turn, at the five-level if necessary. That will not only show your strength but highlight your diamond shortage. Bid three clubs.
- Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- AQJ985 CK3 AKKJ95 AK
- The bidding has proceeded:
- SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
- 1A Pass 27 Pass
- What do you bid now?
- A - You do not have the strength to introduce a new suit at the three-level. Since you also lack sufficient heart support for a raise, all you can do is bid two spades, despite the fact that your suit is only five-card long and of relatively poor quality.
- Q. 5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- AAKJ76 AKKJ94 K8 AK
- The bidding has proceeded:
- SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
- 1A Pass 27 Pass
- What do you bid now?
- A - Somewhat how weak partner's one-trump response, you can be in a game in which you have an eight-card fit — and don't discount the possibility of slam. This way to make sure you find the optimum contract. It is impossible to raise hearts to four hearts and bid four hearts at your next turn.
- Q. 6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- AAKJ76 K105 AKKJ9
- The bidding has proceeded:
- SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
- 1A Pass 27 Pass
- What do you bid now?
- A - Your fifth spade is, in fact, hand with more than 12 points, which is why you did not open one notrump in the first place. Even if partner has a five-card spade suit, you should bid four hearts to show your strength.

enables  
to coach  
Australia's  
occeroos

NEY (R) — former  
soccer boss Terry  
Venables, eager to try his  
hand at the World Cup, has  
been asked to take over as man-  
ager of the Australian  
national team.

Australian soccer sources  
on Tuesday Venables  
to announce the move  
to West London drink-  
ing water in the day in a  
new conference with  
an Australian chairman

we wouldn't  
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the Champions League, he  
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including a long-running  
one with Tottenham  
manager Alan Sugar —  
which could interfere with

last week that Ven-  
ables was talking to Aus-  
tralian officials about  
taking long-time coach  
Frank Taylor, who will  
coach the Japanese team  
in January, sur-  
vived some observers  
Australia's last sta-  
tion soccer nation.

Venables has told  
the newspapers that he  
is attracted by the soc-  
cer's likely participation

## Kings

COVER (R) — Billy Owens  
led the Sacramento Kings pe-  
re had 10 rebounds and Olde  
man, which won for the first  
time since 1991. Owens had 19 points for  
the Kings, while Lee Mayberry three-p-  
t Owens basket gave the King  
a 102-92 victory. Greg K  
and rolled off the rim.

### Wednesday's

reign  
brigade  
produce the  
goods

FIELD (AFP) —  
Wednesday's  
"brigade" had the  
team roaring on Mon-  
day night Dutch  
midfielder  
Truffull  
Carbone scored the  
winning goal in a 2-1  
victory over Nottingham  
Forest.

Wednesday's  
even league and  
manager kept the visi-  
ble about a win since  
the match of the sea-  
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the lead on  
Monday but he shot  
at the Nottingham  
Forest Mark Crossley.

the home side had  
until midway  
the second-half to  
the net — Crossley  
led a Truffull sweep  
a low shot from  
the box after New-  
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the Dutchman's first  
on Wednesday since he  
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game, he kept pressing  
and they put the  
clock on time when Car-

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CINEMA TEL:634144  
PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia 1  
QUICK & THE DEAD  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30  
Philadelphia 2  
Tom Cruise ... in  
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238  
PLAZA

Sean Connery ... in  
THE ROCK  
(In Dolby stereo)  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420  
CONCORD

CONCORD "1"  
INDEPENDENCE DAY  
(In Dolby stereo)  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45  
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# Onships

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## Venables set to coach Australia's soccerroos

SYDNEY (R) — former England soccer boss Terry Venables, eager to try his luck in the World Cup, has agreed to take over as manager of the Australian national team.

Australian soccer sources said on Tuesday Venables would announce the move at his West London drinking club later in the day in a joint news conference with soccer Australia chairman David Hill.

"Logic says we wouldn't be holding a news conference just to say no," one source told Reuters. "It's been a very positive period during the last few days."

Venables, whose coaching career has included spells at the helm of Barcelona and Tottenham Hotspur, quit the England job in June after taking his country to the semifinals of the Euro '96 on home turf.

He left the job because he said he had a number of legal battles before him — including a long-running dispute with Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar — which could interfere with it.

News last week that Venables was talking to Australian officials about replacing long-time coach Eddie Thomson, who will join Hiroshima in Japan's J-League in January, surprised some observers given Australia's lowly status as a soccer nation.

But Venables has told English newspapers that he was attracted by the soccerroos' likely participation



Former England coach Terry Venables speaks to reporters in London following his confirmation as Australia's new soccer coach (Reuters photo)

in the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

"The job offers me one thing I have always wanted — to be involved in a world cup. I wanted it with England, but it wasn't to be. In the circumstances the offer from Australia is exciting," Venables said.

Australia have only once qualified for the world cup finals — in 1974 — but are an improving team and face a relatively easy path to France. The winners of the weak Oceania Group will meet an Asian team in a final qualifying play-off.

News reports about negotiations between Venables and Hill angered some figures on the local soccer scene, who have complained that the job should go to someone who knows more about Australian soccer and the players on offer.

Former Australia goalkeeper Jack Reilly said on Monday the situation was a disgrace and a "slap in the face" for all those involved in the Australian game.

Others have criticised rumours plans to appoint parallel coaches — one in Europe to handle Australia's 100-plus overseas players and one to nurture home-based talent. Australia media reports have put Venables likely salary at more than A\$400,000 (\$320,000), around double what Thomson was thought to earn.

Soccer Australia declined to give any details about Venables' future salary or other aspects, but sources said he was expected to spend at least six months a year in Australia.

## UEFA Champions' League United, Juventus top European bill; Auxerre take on undermanned Ajax

PARIS (AFP) — Manchester United host Juventus in the pick of the latest round of Champions League matches Wednesday night — a match United must win to keep alive their chances of qualifying for the quarter-finals.

United, beaten at home in European competition for the first time in 40 years by Fenerbahce a fortnight ago, are in second place — four points behind Juventus but only two points clear of Fenerbahce who are at home to Rapid Vienna.

The English double winners, who ended their run of three English Premiership defeats with a 1-0 win over Arsenal on Saturday, will welcome back combative Irish midfielder Roy Keane and compatriot Denis Irwin into defence.

However, it is the return from injury of Welsh wing Ryan Giggs that has United manager Alex Ferguson really purring.

"When Ryan turns it on he lifts the team and there is no question that we have missed that natural left foot of his, and the electricity he can bring," Ferguson said.

Juventus, who beat United 1-0 in September, are likely to drop playmaker Alessandro Del Piero in favour of a 4-4-2 formation — something that the player appeared to be fairly relaxed about.

"I hope this time I'll get to play at old Trafford, but if I was to choose between the Champions League and the Intercontinental Cup in Tokyo I would rather play in the latter," Del Piero said. Referring to the showdown with Argentinian side River Plate in Tokyo next Tuesday.

Definitely out will be captain Antonio Conte, who will miss the rest of the season following an operation to his cruciate ligaments.

Fenerbahce hardly had the ideal preparation for

their match with Rapid Vienna, drawing 1-1 with Mediocre Trabzonspor and then being assaulted by their own supporters on the pitch.

Midfielder Tayfun is out injured but in a match that Vefah Kucuk, their vice president, said was a must win game, they will rely on Nigerian playmaker Jay Okocha and striker Elvir Bolic, scorer of their two goals in the competition, to force the victory they require to maintain an interest in the league.

AC Milan travel to Porto in Group D on the back of an encouraging scoreless draw with Juventus on Sunday, and aiming to avenge their shock 3-2 home defeat to the Portuguese champions in September.

Milan Trail Porto by six points and have only a three point lead over Rosenberg and Gothenburg, who play each other in Norway.

The Italian champions welcome back Veteran 36-year-old central defender Franco Baresi, whose performance on Sunday against Juventus had coach Oscar Washington Tabarez in raptures.

"Everything changed with him in the side. He knows how to organise a defence and how to read a game. He is an ageless champion," Tabarez said.

Tabarez mind might well be on the Champions League but it is clear that is not the case for vice-president Adriano Galliani. "The Champions League game is not the match for our lives."

Its important but not decisive. We have to limit ourselves and give everything next weekend in the Milan Derby," Galliani, who can afford to be relaxed about results whereas Tabarez most certainly cannot, said.

AC Milan will be boosted by Baresi but will lack a hard edge in midfield as

Demetrio Albertini is suspended.

Porto will be missing midfielder Paulinho Santos, who is suspended, and will be replaced by either Barroso or the youngster Bino.

Otherwise they will be able to call on their regular strikeforce of Jardel and Artur, joint top scorers in the Champions League with three apiece.

Rosenberg haven't won since their opening 3-2 win away at Gothenburg, and only scored once since, but will be able to call on a full squad apart from striker Jahn 'Mini' Jakobsen, one of the scorers against Gothenburg, who is suspended and defender Carl Lokken who has a shoulder injury.

Swedish international wing Jesper Blomqvist will play his last European match for Gothenburg. AC Milan paid \$3 million for him last Thursday and he is due to join the Italians in December.

In Group A, French champions Auxerre travel to Ajax, the 1995 European Cup winners, after slumping to a 1-0 league defeat against Rennes and with a long injury list hanging over them.

The good news for the Frenchmen is that Ajax have similar problems. They were beaten 2-0 at the weekend by Breda and also have several players out injured or suspended.

Auxerre are still missing their strike partnership of Lillian Laslandes, although he came through a reserve match on Sunday and may be on the bench, and Thomas Deniaud, scorer of three goals in the Champions League this season.

Australian sweeper Ned Zelic is back in training but unlikely to be rushed into the game and French international midfielder Sabri Lamouchi is still out with an ankle injury he

picked up in the friendly with Turkey last month.

Auxerre will rely on the defensive qualities of Nigerian Taribo West, the midfield guide of Algerian Moussa Saib and wing play of

Ajax will be without internationals Danny Blind, Jari Litmanen, Richard Witschge and Peter Hoekstra, all injured, and Brazilian defender Marcio Santos will also have to sit out. Santos, like Witschge, is suspended.

The Dutchmen will rely on the speedy wing Tijani Babangida and the goals of Portuguese striker Dani to nullify the French threat.

The only other hope for Auxerre will be if Scotland's Rangers beat visiting surprise package of their group — Grasshoppers Zurich.

The Swiss champions lead the group on goal difference with Ajax and are three points ahead of Auxerre.

Rangers, without a point and with only two goals scored against 10 conceded, need to take their chances and their hopes must be reinforced with news that their opponents will be without Romanian striker Viorel Moldovan and attacking midfielder Murat Yakin.

Both players have scored two goals in the Champions League so far. Yakin scoring the winner against Ajax in Amsterdam while Moldovan notched two against Auxerre a fortnight

ago. Zurich will be relying more heavily than ever on Swiss international striker Kubilay Turkulmaz.

Rangers too will not be at full strength since England forward Paul Gascoigne is suspended. But they will welcome back Richard Gough, Craig Moore and Alex Cleland, all suspended for their last match.

Group B is effectively settled. Both Atletico Madrid and Borussia Dortmund are six points clear of Widzew Lodz and Steaua Bucharest.

Atletico who travel to Romania have injury doubts surrounding Yugoslav midfielder Milanko Pantic, who has hurt his left ankle, striker Kiko, troubled by his right knee, and midfielder Juan Vizcaino who has a muscular injury.

Dumitru Dumitriu, the Steaua coach, was brutally honest about his side's chances despite the experience of striker Mario Lacatus.

"This is a battle between an experienced stylish Spanish side and a side that has lost a lot of its experienced players to clubs abroad," Dumitriu said.

Dortmund travel to Poland, reinforced by the return of German 'player of the year' Matthias Sammer.

Widzew Lodz, who lead their league after their 2-0 win over Legia Warsaw on Sunday, are just hoping for the best against the German giants who beat them 2-1 in their opening match.

## Kings nip Grizzlies

VANCOUVER (R) — Billy Owens scored 17 points, including a jumper with 61 seconds to lift the Sacramento Kings past the Vancouver Grizzlies, 84-83 Monday. Owens had 10 rebounds and Olden Polynice finished with 15 points and 11 boards for Sacramento, which won for the first time in three games at Vancouver. Bryant Reeves had 19 points for the Grizzlies, who took a four-point lead after three quarters on a Lee Mayberry three-pointer at the buzzer. After Owens basket gave the Kings the lead, Vancouver blew a chance to win the game with 3.2 seconds remaining. Greg Anthony's jump shot from the top of the key went off the glass and rolled off the rim.

## Wednesday's foreign brigade produce the goods

SHEFFIELD (AFP) — Sheffield Wednesday's 'foreign brigade' had the home fans roaring on Monday when first Dutch import Orlando Trustfull and then Italian midfielder Benito Carbone scored the goals to give their side a 2-0 victory over Nottingham Forest.

The win, Wednesday's first in eleven league and cup outings, kept the visitors, without a win since the first match of the season, firmly rooted at the foot of the English Premiership.

Blinker was also just inches off target with a snap shot and Welsh international Mark Pembridge should have given Wednesday the lead on nine minutes but he shot straight at the Nottingham goalkeeper Mark Crossley. In fact the home side had to wait until midway through the second-half to find the net — Crossley stranded as Trustfull swept home a low shot from inside the box after Newson had headed on Carbone's corner.

It was the Dutchman's first goal for Wednesday since he made the 750,000 switch from Feyenoord earlier this season.

Trustfull limped off with what looked like a hamstring injury after 80 minutes, but Wednesday kept pressing forward and they put the issue beyond doubt five minutes from time when Carbone, the club's three million pound signing from Inter Milan, slammed home a 20-yard drive.

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1. Copies of the tender documents can be obtained for the price of (100) one hundred JD, from the Secretary of the Tender Committee at the Royal Scientific Society, during working hours (8:00 a.m.) to (5:00 p.m.) except of Thursdays and Fridays.

2. Tenders should be submitted to the Head of the Tender Committee at R.S.S. before December 22, 1996 (12:00 a.m. local time).

President

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## ANNOUNCEMENT FILIPINO HOUSEMAIDS ABSCONDED



Mr. Feliciano E. Reyes, Mrs. Floredelisa S. Reyes and Mrs. Aida B. Dela Paz have absconded from the employers' house on Wednesday 13/11/1996 at 11:00 a.m. with missing items from the house.

Any person/s know such information, please contact Tel. No. 659934 or Zahran Police Station Tel. No. 654313. Any person/s withholding such information will be personally prosecuted.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN NOOR AL HUSSEIN  
THE DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN JORDAN PRESENTS



## THE EUROPEAN UNION CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

AT THE PRINCE HASSAN AUDITORIUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN  
ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH, 1996 AT 19:30 P.M.

TICKETS PRICE: 5 JD (REGULAR), 3 JD (STUDENTS)

PROCEEDS WILL BE GIVEN TO CHARITY  
THE CONCERT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE COOPERATION OF THE EMBASSY OF BELGIUM, THE EMBASSY OF SPAIN, THE FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE, THE GOETHE INSTITUTE, THE PHILADELPHIA HOTEL, ROYAL JORDANIAN AND FREDDY FOR MUSIC.



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE GOETHE INSTITUTE, THE BRITISH COUNCIL, THE INSTITUTO CERVANTES AND THE FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE AND AT THE PRINCE HASSAN AUDITORIUM.



## U.N., AOHR slam Israel for sanctioning torture

GENEVA (Agencies) — The United Nations condemned Tuesday a decision by Israel's supreme court to authorise the use of physical violence against a Palestinian prisoner, saying that no crime could justify torture.

The U.N. Committee Against Torture said in a statement here that recourse to violence to question suspects was unacceptable, and criticised the supreme court's decision to give the Shin Bet intelligence service the green light to use "physical pressure" to interrogate a Palestinian prisoner.

The court, explaining its decision, said it had been convinced by the Shin Bet that its prisoner, Mohammad Adel Aziz Hamdan, held crucial information which could avoid attacks.

Hamdan, from the West Bank town of Ramallah, is said to be a member of the Islamic Jihad, which has claimed several deadly bomb attacks in Israel, judicial sources said.

"Heightened physical pressure," such as violent shaking, has been repeatedly denounced as torture by human rights groups in Israel. It was blamed for the death of a Palestinian prisoner in April 1995.

In Cairo, the Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR) said on Tuesday Israel has institutionalised racism by allowing its secret service interrogators to torture Palestinian prisoners and not Jews.

The supreme court decision shows "the extent of violations repeatedly committed against human rights in the Palestinian occupied territories," the group said in a statement.

"The decision previously taken by the same court...of prohibiting the exercise of physical torture against any Jew involves sanctioning the Israeli authorities to exercise striking racial discrimination between Israelis and Palestinians with the consent of the Israeli supreme court," it added.

The decision is a "flagrant violation of international conventions on the humanitarian law and human rights," the group said.

It appealed to all organisations to notify the United Nations and issue a resolution condemning Israel and demanding an end to such violations.

Israeli officials said meanwhile two Israeli border guards were arrested Tuesday after they were filmed beating and humiliat-

ing Palestinian workers caught trying to infiltrate into Jerusalem.

A justice ministry spokesman said the two had been suspended and remanded in custody for an initial 48 hours for interrogation.

The pair were filmed by an amateur Palestinian cameraman punching, slapping and kicking Palestinian workers near the Al Ram checkpoint north of Jerusalem.

During the incident, which took place five weeks earlier, the Palestinians were also forced to do push-ups and one of the policemen was shown pretending to urinate on one of the men.

The video was broadcast Monday night on Israeli television and Internal Security Minister Avidgor Kahalani immediately ordered that the two border guards be suspended and legal action taken against them.

The head of the border guards, Commissioner Israel Sadan, told Israel Radio Tuesday that the two policemen would be dismissed "because we can't afford to have such rotten fruit among us."

## Tehran moves to ease row with Germany

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian leaders and the official media on Tuesday moved to ease tension with Germany over accusations of terrorism against Tehran as Islamic hardliners threatened to take over the German embassy.

State-run radio and television have been airing around the clock conciliatory statements from German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel in a telephone call with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati late Sunday.

The newspapers have also been running the story on their front pages, quoting Mr. Kinkel as saying that Bonn does not wish to see relations deteriorate with Tehran.

"Kinkel's contact with Velayati could be a good starting point for ending the crisis," said Jomhuri Islamic newspaper, which had earlier chastised Bonn for "insulting" Iranian leaders.

"This is a logical step to appease the flames of the wrath of the Iranian people," it added.

German prosecutors have accused Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of approving the murder of four Kurdish opposition leaders in a Berlin restaurant in 1992.

"Like Mr. Kinkel, we believe that everything should be done to avert further tension," the English-language daily Tehran Times said. "Both sides should seek to revive the cordial state of relations between them as soon as possible."

Iran's Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, who last week threatened retaliatory measures against Bonn, said Monday that Tehran attributed the "disrespect to a mistake and immature behaviour" from the German prosecutor.

He urged Bonn, which is Tehran's top trade partner, to distance itself from the charges of the prosecutor.

An influential conservative political figure, Habibollah Asgarioladi, also hailed the telephone conversation between Mr. Kinkel and Mr. Velayati as a "sign that Bonn was alarmed" at the prospect of jeopardising ties with Iran.

The Iranian government is reluctant to endanger ties with Germany, which has strongly opposed U.S. efforts to isolate Tehran.

Relations have already survived several other crises in past years. But Islamic hardliners continued Tuesday to whip up anger against Bonn.

Several hundred hardliners demonstrated outside the German embassy on Tuesday, threatening to take over the mission if Bonn does not retract its terrorism charges against Iranian leaders.

"If the Germans do not apologise in writing, we will turn the mission into a second spy nest," warned a spokesman for the group, known as Hizbollah, in a speech in front of the compound.

He was referring to the former U.S. embassy in Tehran that was seized by radical students in the aftermath of the 1979 revolution on charges that it was an "espionage nest."

The protesters, carrying placards condemning the "fascist" Bonn government, vowed to target German interests if Ayatollah Khamenei issued a jihad, or holy war, against Bonn as Iran's political and spiritual guide.

"If you stand against our religion, we will stand against your worldly interests," the spokesman said, calling for the expulsion of the German ambassador.



ROYAL GREETING: Her Majesty Queen Noor greets His Majesty King Hussein after the King on Tuesday opened the regular session of the 12th Parliament in a traditional ceremony (photo by Yusef Allan)

## Prisoner release under amnesty is expected to begin next week

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Authorities are expected to start releasing prisoners early next week under a Royal amnesty offered by His Majesty King Hussein, official sources said Tuesday.

Justice Minister Abdul Karim Dughmi was meanwhile quoted as saying that all those arrested in connection with the unrest and riots in the south in mid-August were released.

The official sources said a ministerial committee and a technical panel set up by the government early this week had almost completed their work, and their final recommendations were to be submitted to the King for approval.

Cases of up to 1,600 people would be studied under the amnesty, which does not cover prisoners convicted of threatening national security, spying, rape and murder. Mr. Dughmi was quoted by the local press as saying that no one arrested in connection with the unrest in the south over the rechanneling of subsidies for bread and fodder remained in prison.

One of the key targets of the Royal amnesty was those detained and possibly facing trial for their alleged role in the riots in Karak and other southern towns.

As to others, Mr. Dughmi was quoted as saying, one of the preconditions for eligibility for the amnesty was the dropping of all personal claims by those whose complaints might have led to the conviction of the prisoner concerned.

Most prisoners convicted of petty crimes and have served half of their sentences are eligible to be released under the amnesty, which does not cover violators of traffic regulations, or cases involving illegal housemaids. Those under trial are also excluded.

The ministerial committee will group the minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs and the minister of administrative development. The technical committee will include the secretary general of the Interior Ministry, the Amman prosecutor general, the Amman governor and representatives of the Public Security Department, the military security department and the General Intelligence Department.

The human rights group Amnesty International meanwhile welcomed the release of Leith Shbeilat, president of the Jordan Engineers Association who was freed last week under a special amnesty from the

King. The London-based Amnesty said in a statement that it considered Mr. Shbeilat a "prisoner of conscience" and asserted that he was "detained solely because of his opposition to (Jordan's) peace agreement with Israel and his other peaceful political activities."

Mr. Shbeilat, a strong critic of the government, was convicted on lese majeste and sentenced to three years in prison in March this year.

On Nov. 8, the King personally went to Swaga prison to inform him of the special pardon and drove him home to his mother.

"Amnesty International welcomes the release of Leith Shbeilat," the human rights organisation said. It called on the government to include in the general amnesty "all other prisoners held solely for the non-violent expression of their conscientiously-held beliefs."

The government denies detaining anyone for their political beliefs or ideology and emphasises that only violators of the Kingdom's laws, whether criminal or security-related, are detained or convicted. It also points out that Jordan does not have any laws that call for the detention of people on political grounds.

## Saddam calls on Kurds to stop cooperating with foreign powers

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has urged the Kurds in northern Iraq to stop working with foreign powers and reconcile with his government.

"We are paying tribute to our Kurdish people in the autonomous area and we hope to see the hired and corrupt (Kurdish) accomplices rejoin the nation's ranks after repenting," President Saddam was quoted as saying in the official press Tuesday.

The Kurdish north, which became effectively autonomous under allied air cover in 1991, should be a fortress which "prevents any foreigner or aggressor from gaining a foothold on Iraqi soil," President Saddam told officers during a speech late Monday.

"What will one say of those who made war against Iraq on behalf of the United States or Iran or any other country," President Saddam asked the officers who gave military help to the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in August.

The KDP formed a tactical

alliance with Iraqi forces to capture the main Kurdish city of Erbil from its rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) on Aug. 31, which led to two months of fighting.

But both have agreed to a U.S.-brokered ceasefire which took hold at the end of October.

The KDP accused the PUK of receiving Iranian support, which the PUK and Iran both deny. Meanwhile, a Baath Party official in Baghdad, Abdul Ghani Abdul Ghafour, urged the Kurdish factions to "resume a dialogue with the central government to definitively stop the strange situation in northern Iraq."

"The dialogue in Baghdad, capital of all Iraq gathered under one tent, reflects the hopes of our Kurdish people" to reconcile, Mr. Abdul Ghafour told the official press.

The daily Al Iraq urged the KDP and PUK to accept President Saddam's offer of reconciliation and reject any foreign interference.

"The time has come to take courageous and his-

toric decisions, say 'no' to the interference of foreign powers and end the unstable situation" in northern Iraq, the newspaper said.

Meanwhile, a KDP official in Iran to discuss improving ties after months of tension over charges of Iranian support for the PUK, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said.

Fazel Mirani, a member of the KDP's political office, held talks on Monday with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Sheikholeslam and called for a "new chapter in relations" with Iran, it said.

The KDP official told IRNA later that "signs of improved relations will appear shortly."

"We have come here to remove small obstacles which have recently emerged and have discussed the issue openly and explicitly with Iranian officials," he was quoted as saying.

"There was a good understanding from both sides and problems have been generally eliminated," Mr. Mirani added.

## Palestinian woman sentenced to 12 years in jail for 1977 hijack

HAMBURG (Agencies) — Palestinian Souhaila Andrawes was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment by a Hamburg court Tuesday for her part in the deadly hijacking of a German airliner with 87 people aboard to Somalia in 1977.

Ms. Andrawes, alias Soraya Ansari, aged 43, who was the sole surviving member of the four-member Palestinian commando squad which hijacked the plane, was convicted of murder, attempted murder, hostage-taking, extortion and interfering with air traffic.

The hijackers, who seized the Lufthansa plane to try to force the release of jailed members of the Red Army Faction and Palestinian militants, shot the aircraft's captain dead.

Ms. Andrawes insisted at the start of her trial that she had no part in the killing of the captain during a stop in south Yemen.

But the Hamburg state supreme court ruled that she was an accomplice in the killing.

During the trial, a former crew member testified that at one point she threatened



Souhaila Andrawes

to pour gasoline onto the co-pilot and set him on fire.

The woman was the only one of four Palestinian hijackers to survive when German commandos stormed the Lufthansa plane on Oct. 18, 1977 in Mogadishu, Somalia, and freed the 87 hostages.

She was arrested in 1994 in Oslo, Norway, after 17 years on the run and extradited to Germany.

The hijackers, from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, commandeered the

Lufthansa airliner after it took off from Mallorca, Spain.

They were trying to force the release of imprisoned group members and left-wing guerrillas from Germany's Red Army Faction.

The gang's leader shot and killed airline pilot Juergen Schumann, law authorities said. The hijackers also threatened to kill the 83 passengers and remaining four crew members.

At that point, Germany broke off negotiations with the hijackers.

German commandos stormed the plane after it landed at Mogadishu and killed the three male hijackers. Two German sharpshooters were wounded, as was Ms. Andrawes.

Afterward, she served a short prison term in Somalia, then disappeared until her arrest in Oslo, where she had lived for about three years under a new identity with her husband and young daughter.

The court said Ms. Andrawes' previous prison time would be deducted from her sentence.

## Parliament

(Continued from page 1) boycotted the House's meetings before the extraordinary summer session was terminated on the day bread prices were raised, are expected to renew their criticism of the government once the House starts its regular meetings.

Observers expect the deliberations of the House to be especially heated in the current session because it will be followed by new parliamentary elections and

will be used as an election-eering opportunity.

But observers say the IAF-led 23 opposition lawmakers will not be able to extract major concessions from the government that enjoys the support of the majority of deputies.

The impending decision to lower bread prices is also expected to win the government some of its supporters who did not agree on rechanneling bread and fodder subsidies.

A new election law that the government is expected to present to the House dur-

ing this session is likely to generate the most heated debate due to the government's insistence on not heading the opposition's demand for cancelling the one-person, one-vote formula.

The four-month session will have to address a number of economic laws which the government deems necessary for economic growth and recovery. The majority support that the government enjoys in the House is expected to lead for a speedy endorsement of these legislation.

## Armed Forces

(Continued from page 1) countries as Japan, Australia, Egypt and Morocco, who were all designated as major non-NATO allies of the U.S.

"It is paradoxical that the former Warsaw Pact member states are competing to join NATO to enjoy the benefits available to us now," the King said, noting that some voices here are criticising, condemning and even questioning

Jordan's quest to obtain arms. King Hussein expressed appreciation to President Clinton and his administration for their gesture towards Jordan.

Field Marshal Mirai sent King Hussein a cable expressing the armed forces' appreciation of his endeavours to secure strong defence for Jordan through the modernisation of the country's armed forces.

"Through your efforts you have made of Jordan a model of democracy for the

other countries of the region and maintained strong bridges with the various nations," said Field Marshal Mirai in his cable.

"You have attained what you have aspired for our country of links with the NATO alliance and this crowns your efforts and the U.S. decision came to express appreciation for your courage and in recognition of the Kingdom as a country playing a main role in the region," the message said.

## Hebron

(Continued from page 1) government under U.S. and Russian sponsorship.

"We are going through difficult negotiations... what we want is an honest and accurate implementation of the agreements," he said, adding that continued deadlock in the talks "will be a direct threat to the peace process not only on the Palestinian track but to the entire region."

Settler leaders charged Tuesday that the army's move out of the military headquarters overnight was tantamount to a unilateral political decision to carry out the redeployment even before negotiators had reached an agreement.

"The army has already evacuated its headquarters in Hebron without even receiving an order from the political leaders," said Naom Arnon, a leader of Hebron's settlers.

Interior Minister Elie Suissa of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party backed the withdrawal and lashed out at the settlers for putting the lives of Israeli troops in danger.

"The whole Jewish settlement in Hebron is not worth one drop of blood of a soldier," Mr. Suissa said in an interview published in the daily Haaretz.

"I have great doubts about the logic behind this settlement and concerning its utility versus the damage it causes," he said.

"I would not go to live in Hebron and I think serious study must be given to the question of whether religious law allows one to live there," said Mr. Suissa, referring to traditional Jewish law which prohibits actions which put one's own life or the lives of others in danger.

## Final full moon for Father Christmas

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Christmas this year will be celebrated for the fifth and last time this century on a full moon night, the Press Trust of India said Tuesday. Christmas had coincided with the full moon in 1901, 1920, 1931 and 1970. The next Christmas full moon will be in 2015. Piyush Pandey, assistant director of Calcutta's Birla Planetarium told the news agency. Mr. Pandey said Christmas has coincided with the full moon 71 times since the beginning of the Christian era to the year 2000.

## Women caught smuggling heroin embedded in threads on dresses

JEDDAH (AP) — A group of Pakistani women were caught trying to smuggle heroin embedded in the gold thread on their embroidered clothes, the Al Medina newspaper reported Tuesday. About seven kilograms of heroin was extracted from the thread on the dresses the women were wearing, the Arabic-language daily said. The five-year-old daughter of one of the women also was taken into custody, it said. The paper said it was the largest number of women arrested for drug smuggling, but did not say how many were involved or when they were detained. The thread apparently was soaked with heroin and then gilded with a gold-covered substance. The paper said customs officials at Jeddah airport became suspicious over the embroidery on the clothes worn by Kulsom Ullah Mohammad, 27, and her daughter Shehnaz, who is five. It said samples of the thread were tested and found to contain heroin. Kulsom's dress had more than 1.5 kilograms of heroin on it, and her daughter's about 600 grammes, the paper reported. Other female relatives were searched and found to be wearing heroin-laced clothes as well, the paper said.

## Picasso exhibited in China

BEIJING (AFP) — A wealthy German art collector has left four works by Spanish painter Pablo Picasso to China so his paintings can be exhibited in China for the first time, the China Daily said Tuesday. Peter Ludwig, who died in July, left China 117 paintings in all, including the late Picasso works Ludwig's widow Irene handed over formal documents on Monday at a ceremony presided by Li Tieying, a member of the Communist Party Politburo. He said the donation was of "great importance for the two countries" and would lead to greater understanding between them, the Daily said. Beijing's National Arts Museum will exhibit the paintings in a special gallery named after Ludwig. The donation coincides with a visit to China by German President Roman Herzog.

## Indian drivers acquiring manners

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Police attempts to put New Delhi's notoriously wayward drivers back on the straight and narrow are succeeding, New Delhi's traffic chief was quoted as saying Tuesday. Red rubber flaps attached to painted lane borders on busy roads in the capital have helped instil discipline and road manners, Delhi police traffic commissioner Ujjwal Mishra said. The flaps and bollards were installed on select stretches on an experimental basis, he told the Times of India daily.

Experts have found platinum, silver and gold in several locations in Egypt and located in the Sinai and southern Egypt. The news agency said the Egyptian government has approved the production of precious metals from the sites. It also told the daily that it had been previously approved for gold in these locations. The firms involved or

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